

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR
PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 97-5968-CI-11

X
:
:
JOHN EASTMAN, :
:
Plaintiff, :
:
vs. :
:
BROWN & WILLIAMSON TOBACCO CORP., :
individually and as successor by :
merger to THE AMERICAN TOBACCO :
COMPANY, a foreign corporation; :
PHILIP MORRIS, INCORPORATED, a :
foreign corporation, :
:
Defendants. :
X

BEFORE: HONORABLE ANTHONY RONDOLINO
PLACE: The Judicial Building
545 First Avenue North
St. Petersburg, Florida
DATE: Thursday, March 20, 2003
TIME: 8:54 a.m. - 11:41 a.m.
REPORTED BY: BETH L. BILLINGS, RPR
Court Reporter and Notary Public
Sixth Judicial Circuit

TESTIMONY AND PROCEEDINGS

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1 I N D E X T O P R O C E E D I N G S
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Witness or Proceedings Page

3
4 STEPHEN GROFF

Direct Examination By Mr. Acosta: 1882

5 Cross-Examination By Mr. Wallace 1934

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7 For the Defendant:

8 Exhibit 11,000 1945
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1 (8:53 a.m.) P-r-o-c-e-e-d-i-n-g-s

2 THE BAILIFF: All rise, please. Court's in
3 session

4 THE COURT: Good morning.

5 MR. ACOSTA: Good morning, Your Honor.

6 THE COURT: We ready to proceed with the jury
7 at 9:00 this morning?

8 MR. ACOSTA: I think so, Judge.

9 THE COURT: Okay. Is there anything we need
10 to do before we bring them?

11 It's not really quite 9 o'clock yet.

12 What's the order of business for today?
13 MR. ACOSTA: We have a treating doctor, and
14 then we have some -- some more video. And then we
15 may have some depositions to publish. And that
16 looks like the order of business.
17 THE COURT: All right. I have a meeting at 4
18 o'clock, so we may have to recess a little early
19 today.
20 MR. ACOSTA: That would be great as far as I'm
21 concerned.
22 THE COURT: I have also received this morning
23 a defendant's motion to strike portions of
24 Dr. Farone's testimony.
25 MR. LYDON: I'm sorry. I believe that was

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1 probably --
2 MR. ACOSTA: Can I run out and go to the
3 restroom, Judge?
4 THE COURT: Sure.
5 MR. ACOSTA: I'll be right back.
6 THE COURT: Mr. Wallace and Mr. Parrish never
7 visited Peggy this morning.
8 MR. WALLACE: Can I run in real fast?
9 THE COURT: Sure, you can.
10 MR. PARRISH: Thank you for the reminder.
11 MR. WALLACE: Thank you, Your Honor.
12 (Pause.)
13 THE COURT: All right, Mr. Acosta, you ready
14 to have the jury brought in?
15 MR. ACOSTA: Yes.
16 THE COURT: Sheriff, let's do that.
17 (The following took place in the presence and
18 hearing of the jury.)
19 THE BAILIFF: Jury is in the jury box seated,
20 Your Honor.
21 THE COURT: Thank you very much, Sheriff.
22 Welcome back, ladies and gentlemen. We are
23 ready to move forward today.
24 Mr. Acosta?
25 MR. ACOSTA: May it please the Court.

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1 Dr. Stephen Groff.
2 THE BAILIFF: Doctor, stand right here and
3 receive the oath from the clerk.
4 Thereupon,
5 STEPHEN GROFF, M.D.,
6 was called as a witness and, after having been first duly
7 sworn/affirmed to testify the truth, was examined and
8 testified as follows:
9 THE WITNESS: I do.
10 THE BAILIFF: Step this way, please.
11 Have a seat in the witness chair. Watch your
12 step. Speak in a clear and loud voice.
13 There is some fresh water there if you need
14 it.
15 THE WITNESS: Thank you.
16 Okay.
17 DIRECT EXAMINATION
18 BY MR. ACOSTA:
19 Q. Good morning.
20 A. Good morning, sir.
21 Q. Would you please tell the jury your name and
22 where you live?

23 A. My name is Stephen Groff, and I live here in
24 downtown St. Petersburg.

25 Q. And what's your occupation?

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1 A. I'm a physician specializing in psychiatry.

2 Q. And how is it that you came to be involved in
3 your testimony here today?

4 A. Well, John and I have known each other for a
5 long time. And in most recent years he has contacted me
6 and we have kept some contact. And very recently I
7 received a subpoena for my records. And when I provided
8 those records, I then found out that there was this
9 trial going on. And I guess the next thing I heard was
10 from you who asked me if I would come and testify to my
11 treatment of John.

12 Q. Did I hire you as an expert witness?

13 A. No, I'm not an expert witness here, just a
14 treating physician.

15 Q. And what's the difference between a treating
16 physician and someone who is hired -- first let me ask
17 you this. Have you ever testified as an expert witness
18 in the past?

19 A. Yes, I have.

20 Q. Okay. What's the difference between
21 testifying as an expert witness and testifying as a
22 treating physician?

23 A. Well, you can actually be both, except if you
24 have never seen the patient as a treating physician,
25 then you would be asked because of basic expertise in

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1 the area of psychiatry or some subspecialty of
2 psychiatry to give expert testimony.

3 If you are a treating physician, you can be
4 asked to just limit yourself to that which you have done
5 as a treating physician.

6 Q. Can you tell the jury -- jury what a
7 psychiatrist is?

8 A. Well, a psychiatrist is a physician, just like
9 any other physician. For example, I have delivered
10 babies, I have done surgery, rotated through all the
11 subspecialties of medicine. And then at some point in
12 your career you decide what specialty you would like to
13 do further, and I chose psychiatry. And then you do a
14 rotating internship through the specialty of psychiatry,
15 as well as through all the other specialties, and then
16 follow that by extra special training in the sense of
17 residency training in -- specifically and only in the
18 field of psychiatry.

19 In addition, not always, but in my case as
20 well, you can do analyses which train you for further
21 psychotherapeutic treatment.

22 Q. Can you tell the jury your educational
23 background?

24 A. Yes. Well, actually I should start in
25 college. I was a physiology major with a minor in

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1 psychology starting back in 1950. And I interrupted my
2 training during the Korean War when I enlisted in the
3 military.

4 After being separated from military service,
5 two years of active duty, I was in the military reserve
6 for another six years. And during that time I traveled
7 extensively in Europe. It was in Europe where I came

8 upon the professor of physiology at the University of
9 Amsterdam who offered me a position.

10 So I returned to the states, completed by
11 bachelor's degree in physiology and went to work for
12 this professor at the University of Amsterdam as an
13 instructor. It was there where I became much more
14 enamored in the fact of acute medicine in the subject of
15 medicine and treatment and ultimately in October of 1964
16 I achieved by medical degree.

17 After my medical degree I spent about -- a
18 little more than a year doing rotating internships,
19 which led to a degree there known as the semiarts. This
20 was followed by another year and a half of rotating
21 internships. And this met the requirements for the
22 United States Board of Medicine, which was known as the
23 Educational Council for Foreign Medical Graduates. And
24 I took that which then made me eligible to take my
25 boards for the state of Florida, which I believe I took

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1 back in 1970.

2 And that was followed by specific training in
3 the field of psychiatry, three years of residency
4 training. The first year was at the University of
5 Miami, Jackson Memorial Hospital; and that was followed
6 by two years at the Hillside Hospital in Glen Oaks, New
7 York, which brought me to 1971. After which time I was
8 invited to come down here to teach at the University,
9 and I did for a number of years. And then went into
10 private practice, and I have been self-employed in
11 private practice since that time.

12 Q. What department of the university, and which
13 university down here did you teach at?

14 A. USF for the department of psychiatry. I was
15 an assistant instructor.

16 Q. Did they have a medical school there?

17 A. Yes, that's in the medical school, correct.

18 Q. And where is it that you delivered babies and
19 performed surgeries, and things like that?

20 A. Well, that was during my training in Holland.
21 As part of my rotations rotating through OB-GYN, we were
22 required to deliver at least 30 babies as part of our
23 training. And I actually delivered 36, I believe.

24 Q. Now, what is the difference between a
25 psychiatrist and a psychologist?

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1 A. Well, as I explained some of my background and
2 training, which includes getting an undergraduate degree
3 from a college, and then actually I had a minor in
4 psychology. Then going on to medical school and
5 internship and then residency, if not further analysis,
6 a psychologist would graduate from college and then
7 start studying only psychology, usually doing a master's
8 first and then going on to what's known as a Ph.D. in
9 psychology. So they had no medical training, no medical
10 school basis for their work.

11 Q. What is the purpose of psychiatry? Your
12 field, what is it that you do?

13 A. The purpose of psychiatry is just like any
14 other physician, to evaluate a patient's problems as
15 they are referred to you. But more specifically not
16 only looking at the body, but also looking at the mind
17 more specifically, whereas, for example, a neurologist
18 or another physician would not be as interested in --

19 although they do do a minor mental-status study, or
20 something like that, it wouldn't be as extensive.
21 So although with our background and training
22 we are doing just what any other doctor does, as part of
23 a history, we would be more limited to the matters,
24 usually for the referral purpose of something, that was
25 more in the area of the mind.

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1 Q. Can you explain what you mean "by the mind" as
2 opposed to the brain?

3 A. Well, the brain, as anybody recognizes, is the
4 more physical and tangible. The mind is that which is
5 intangible, which is often a little confusing to people
6 because one would think that since something is
7 intangible, therefore it is much more difficult and
8 nebulous to work with.

9 However, through the science of medicine, of
10 which psychiatry is obviously one portion, the tools
11 that we use are every bit as tangible as we would like
12 to think, even the scalpel of a surgeon. So in that
13 sense, speaking about the mind and the way we approach
14 the mind and the tests that we do through clinical
15 knowledge or even actual psychometric testing deals with
16 it as a very tangible and concrete item, not abstract
17 and intangible.

18 Q. Can you describe some of the tools that you
19 use to diagnose mental disorders?

20 A. Sure. First and foremost, one begins with
21 everything that they've studied and learned about the
22 body, about the mind. And this gives you a fund of
23 knowledge upon which you base your clinical evaluation.
24 Then of course, you have experience that you have gained
25 in internships and residencies, and not the least of

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1 which is through actual practice.

2 Now, while evaluating a patient, you are not
3 only using the background of everything that you have
4 learned from your teachers, from your books, and from
5 your development as a therapist with your patients, but
6 you also have certain tests you could call them. For
7 example, we use the mental status examination whereby we
8 evaluate a person by sometimes asking them very specific
9 questions, much so as a neurologist might do who also
10 wants to know about intangible things in the brain.

11 For example, you may know that different parts
12 of the brain are responsible for different functions,
13 speech, color, sight, but also certain emotional things
14 in the brain. And as time goes by from science and
15 chemistry, we understand more and more about how the
16 brain function and therefore how the mind functions and
17 what emotions are created; like depression, like
18 anxiety.

19 So by asking these questions and using these
20 tools, we are able to actually localize in the brain
21 where the seat of emotion might lie or where the seat of
22 some disturbance might lie. And in that fashion, we use
23 these tools to make a diagnosis.

24 Q. Now, are you trained in the field of
25 physiology or brain chemistry?

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1 A. Yes. Basically my roots began as a
2 muscle-nerve physiologist. And this is before I became
3 a medical doctor and doing work on conditioning.

4 It so happens that I had a lot of expertise in
5 that, so by the time I came out of the military and had
6 met Professor Ten Cate, who is kind of a world famous
7 physiologist, with his wife, he thought it would be
8 interesting if I could go and do work with him.

9 You may or might not know that in Russia, for
10 example, where he came from, that conditioning was the
11 first roots of psychiatry before the basic tenets of
12 what we now call psychoanalytically-oriented
13 psychotherapy or Freudian, if you will, type of
14 psychotherapy was developed. So that these were the
15 basis items to study further the field of psychiatry.

16 As time went by, especially let's say in the
17 mid-'50s through tremendous discoveries in the field of
18 psychopharmacology, I was involved in research right
19 from the beginning in psychopharmacology. Now we had
20 chemicals for the first time which we understood could
21 affect the brain. And if we had chemicals that could
22 make people be unusual or psychotic, as you might
23 describe it, out of touch with reality, and we could
24 find antidotes to that, then possibly we could find
25 cures for some of these illnesses.

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1 So in the '50s it was just a boom time for
2 psychopharmacology and the advent of both finding
3 chemicals, as well as being what we call the "talking
4 therapy" to help patients.

5 So to summarize it very simply, what used to
6 be known as only the "talking doctor," who could only
7 deal with the person and help them try to get in touch
8 with things that they might have been doing that's
9 self-destructive and not aware of it, the course of the
10 talking, if done in a very special scientific way, as we
11 were taught in the principles of psychoanalysis, would
12 help a person bring those things up, now we had
13 chemicals as well, which made things easier. So we
14 rapidly found out that one alone wasn't as good as both
15 together.

16 Q. Can I back up to near the beginning of your
17 answer and ask you, what -- what is conditioning?

18 You mentioned that term "conditioning" that
19 you were involved in that and had special expertise in
20 it. What is that all about?

21 A. Well, I think many people would associate the
22 name of conditioning with a professor named Pavlov. And
23 the idea was at that time that you could take an
24 unconditioned stimulus and by repeating it have it
25 become a conditioned stimulus.

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1 And you might be more familiar with it in the
2 sense of you have a dog, and we redid all of these
3 experiments because this professor was actually the last
4 living pupil of Pavlov, so I had the honor to work with
5 him. If you have a dog and put meat in front of it, he
6 began to salivate.

7 If you paired together the demonstration of
8 meat to the dog with ringing a bell and continue that
9 enough, that eventually you could remove the meat and
10 only by giving the ringing of the bell, you would get
11 the salivation.

12 So what you had done was taken an
13 unconditioned stimulus, showing the meat, and having the
14 dog salivate, pairing it with a conditioned stimulus,

15 which was the ringing of the bell, you soon could take
16 away the bell. And then just by -- excuse me, the meat,
17 and then by ringing the bell, the dog would salivate.
18 So you had created a conditioned stimulus.

19 Now this person -- or the dog rather -- and it
20 works in people as well -- obviously we studied dogs,
21 but this person then developed somewhere in -- someplace
22 in your brain this concept of your ringing a bell and
23 they getting a response. So where was that?

24 Well, that's when we began to think about
25 there must be someplace known as the unconscious wherein

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1 this information is stored.

2 Now in the very same way --

3 Q. Can I stop you for a second first?

4 A. Sure.

5 Q. Is a conditioned response the same thing as a
6 habit?

7 A. Yes, you would say that.

8 Q. And is it -- is the -- this conditioned
9 response something that is -- the person is necessarily
10 aware of?

11 A. Well, to coin the expression, they would
12 necessarily not be aware of it because it had been so --
13 as we would say "brainwashed" or "slipped in" without
14 them really realizing what they are doing, so that
15 before long this person would be doing this. To use the
16 parable of the salivation and the ringing of the bell,
17 but no longer having any idea of why they are doing
18 that.

19 Q. Are there examples of human behavior that
20 might be considered conditioning that you might --

21 A. Yes, the whole idea of addiction, for example,
22 would be explained by a similar function and fashion,
23 except that we now have expanded that even further, not
24 just using the principles of conditioning, but going
25 into psychiatry, the medical aspects of psychiatry, if

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1 you will, the psychodynamics of psychiatry where we have
2 actually pinpointed where this sits and what kinds of
3 psychic apparatus or mental mechanisms of defense
4 actually cause this to happen. So we have gone beyond
5 that now to understand it more.

6 Q. All right. I want to ask you some questions
7 about that more in a few minutes. But before I do that,
8 I wanted to ask you a little bit more about your
9 background and qualifications.

10 Do -- as a psychiatrist, how long have you
11 been in the Tampa Bay area?

12 A. Since 1971.

13 Q. And how -- would you mind telling the jury how
14 old you are?

15 A. March 22nd I will be 70.

16 Q. 70. Okay. And do you still practice?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And do you have an office?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And where is that?

21 A. 4522 Spruce Street in Tampa.

22 Q. And over the past 31 or 32 years, have you
23 treated patients on a daily or weekly basis?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And what kinds of patients have you seen over

1 the years?

2 A. Truthfully, all kinds of patients, which
3 includes hospitalized patients who suffer from major
4 mental disorders, neurotic patients who suffer from
5 depression and anxious and personality disordered
6 patients. And that covers the whole gamut of every kind
7 of patient you could see. I have also seen children.

8 Q. And have you --

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Have you been involved in work as a staff
11 member at any hospitals?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. In what way?

14 A. Actually -- well, the first private
15 psychiatric hospital that was made in Tampa, I was
16 actually one of the original people in that. We started
17 out -- it was called Riverside Hospital. We had 8 beds
18 and eventually it grew to Tampa Hospital. Within a
19 short period of time, I no longer received the
20 gratification or interest in hospital work, and I kind
21 of reduced my practice to totally outpatient work in
22 more recent years. But I believe that hospital was sold
23 and became Charter Hospital and maybe even something
24 else now. So, the last time I actually dealt with
25 inpatients was probably 20 years ago.

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1 Q. Now, do you have any other areas in medicine
2 that you are licensed or certified to work in? For
3 example, do you have anything to do with aviation?

4 A. Oh, yes, aviation has always been a very
5 important part of my life. And I have been a federal
6 aviation agency medical examiner for some 30 -- more
7 than 30 years. And of course, throughout the years
8 doing all the certifications, I've always taken
9 additional courses, and I was an FAA medical review
10 officer for drug addiction and I have expertise in that
11 area.

12 Q. Now, have you published any papers in the
13 field of psychology -- I mean, excuse me, psychiatry?

14 A. Yes, I have. Going back to when I worked for
15 Dr. Donald Kline at the Hillside Hospital -- excuse me,
16 we were the principal investigators doing the work on
17 methylphenidate, which was Ritalin, which at that time
18 was not known to be a better choice than let's say
19 amphetamines for the treatment of Attention Deficit
20 Disorder. And I was also very interested in the area of
21 panic disorder and published in that area. Oddly
22 enough, both of these areas had to do with children.
23 And although I'm not a child psychiatrist, I had --
24 because of my psychopharmacological research with Dr.
25 Kline, I had expertise in that particular area.

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1 As a matter of fact, the thing that originally
2 brought me down to Tampa, although I never did it, was
3 that I was working on a depression rating scale for
4 children. And that -- with this new university. At
5 that time in '71, I don't think they had graduated their
6 first class. I was supposed to come down and be in
7 charge of research and things like that. And
8 ultimately, I just didn't stay with the university and
9 got more involved, having my own family to raise and
10 three children, in private practice. And I have never

11 gone back to research, so I haven't published since that
12 time.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. Although I'm thinking about it now.

15 Q. I'm not sure if you are speaking to fast for
16 the court reporter or not --

17 A. I'm sorry.

18 Q. -- but maybe slow down just a tad would --
19 might be helpful for her.

20 Now, you mentioned, I think, the term
21 "unconscious mind." Do psychiatrists look at the mind
22 and divide it up into varies categories, for example?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And can you explain how that -- how you do
25 that or why you do that?

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1 A. Yes. It's very simple, really. It sounds
2 more ominous than what it is. The only reason I gave a
3 little background on conditioning was so that anyone
4 could identify with the concept of you think you could
5 almost remember something and then it's on the tip of
6 your tongue and you remember it or that ringing of the
7 bell, where is it stored. So, it must be someplace in
8 your brain. And we would like to now recognize that
9 that someplace that you're not quite in touch with is
10 called the unconscious. Then there's obviously a part
11 of the brain that's conscious, such as we are talking
12 now with each other. And last but not least, it was
13 postulated as part of the psycho dynamic apparatus that
14 there is a superego wherein resides the conscience.

15 So, the idea was that if you had some
16 unconscious drives that wish to find their way into your
17 consciousness, that there needed to be some kind of
18 watchdog called a conscience that would say, be careful
19 now, if you do that, you will experience shame or guilt.
20 So, that explained the necessity for these three areas,
21 the conscience, the conscious and the unconscious.

22 Now --

23 Q. What is a drive?

24 A. Well, Dr. Freud postulated a long time ago
25 that there were some things that weren't put in there by

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1 experience or knowledge, and those were your basic
2 instincts. And for the work that he did in his time, he
3 postulated that there were two instincts or drives. And
4 by naming those two instincts, the first one many of you
5 may recall from either literature or whatever, were the
6 sexual drives that were there for survival,
7 self-preservation, reproduction. And then there were
8 the aggressive drives which he later postulated as an
9 attempt to explain things like Obsessive/Compulsive
10 Disorder.

11 So as you know, Dr. Freud is dead and as far
12 as we know, no one else has postulated any other
13 instincts attributable to human beings other than the
14 sexual and the aggressive drives which reside in the
15 unconscience.

16 Q. All right. And --

17 A. Can I give you an example that just crossed my
18 mind?

19 Q. Yes.

20 A. So I might make it clearer for the jury.

21 Q. Sure.

22 A. One would wonder, well, what does a sexual
23 drive have to do with smoking cigarettes? Well, in
24 analysis one might come up with --

25 MR. WALLACE: Objection, Your Honor. The

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1 witness is now asking himself questions and
2 answering them. May we approach?

3 THE COURT: Well, perhaps this is the way the
4 witness explains his thought processes in terms of
5 coming to an opinion.

6 MR. ACOSTA: He asked me if he could give an
7 example and I said yes.

8 MR. WALLACE: May we nonetheless approach
9 briefly, Your Honor.

10 THE COURT: Okay.

11 (Proceedings at the bench follow.)

12 MR. WALLACE: Mr. Acosta is planning to do --
13 he's qualifying this gentleman as an expert after
14 the witness himself has explained that that's not
15 what he is here to do. He has now been on the
16 stand for 25 minutes. He has not mentioned John
17 Eastman's name once except to say they are friends.
18 And I think what he is doing here is inappropriate.
19 He brought him here as a treating physician and he
20 is qualifying him now as an expert in addiction
21 since he clearly needs some help in that area. And
22 I object.

23 MR. ACOSTA: I'm simply asking him questions
24 so that the jury will understand what he does and
25 what he did. I don't think you can do that unless

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1 you know what his field is. It would be just like
2 asking, you know, a neurologist to explain his
3 background and training and what the field of
4 neurology is.

5 THE COURT: I'm assuming you're going to be
6 offering this witness's opinions about --

7 MR. ACOSTA: Mr. Eastman.

8 THE COURT: -- the subject.

9 MR. ACOSTA: Yes.

10 THE COURT: And he is an expert witness --

11 MR. ACOSTA: Yes.

12 THE COURT: -- because of his special
13 education, training and experience. He happens
14 also to be a treating physician, so he has some
15 fact knowledge about the case.

16 MR. ACOSTA: Uh-huh.

17 MR. WALLACE: Yes, Your Honor, but this
18 gentleman has not been disclosed as an expert
19 witness in this case. He disclosed his addiction
20 expert and we deposed him and we cross-examined
21 him. And now he is seeking to have another witness
22 address that who he has not disclosed. He
23 disclosed Dr. Groff as a fact witness and treating
24 physician.

25 THE COURT: Well, I'm assuming as being a

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1 treating physician, you were aware that he was
2 going to be talking about his treatment of Mr.
3 Eastman.

4 MR. WALLACE: He hasn't done that yet, Your
5 Honor. He is talking about the roots of
6 psychotherapy, psychoanalysis.

7 MR. LYDON: We're never --
8 MR. WALLACE: We're never going to get to the
9 treatment.
10 THE COURT: Well, do you want to do it the
11 other way where he talks about his treatment first
12 and then explains the basis for his knowledge and
13 opinions?
14 MR. WALLACE: Well, why is he -- well, where
15 are we going, I guess, would help. How long does
16 Mr. Acosta plan to go with him before we get to
17 what he treated Mr. Eastman for? That might be
18 helpful.
19 MR. ACOSTA: I don't know. I don't think
20 hours, but, you know, I'm just examining the
21 witness and just asking him questions. He's making
22 comments about things that I think need to be
23 explained to the jury. When -- he answers a
24 question and then he says, well, you know,
25 conditioning is part. Well, I think the jury needs

1903

1 to understand what conditioning is, that's all.
2 So, I'm just conducting what I consider to be a
3 standard normal examination of a treating doctor.
4 This one just happens to be a psychiatrist.
5 MR. LYDON: What did he treatment him for?
6 MR. ACOSTA: And that's all.
7 MR. LYDON: What did he treatment him for?
8 MR. ACOSTA: We'll eventually get there. You
9 guys have -- you guys subpoenaed his records.
10 MR. WALLACE: No diagnosis in his records
11 whatsoever. What did he treat him for?
12 MR. ACOSTA: We'll get to that point, okay?
13 MR. PARRISH: This is totally a surprise.
14 MR. ACOSTA: They had -- they could have taken
15 his deposition if they wanted to. In fact, they
16 set his deposition and then cancelled it. And then
17 I tried to call him -- call him back and I said,
18 you know, look, are you sure you really don't want
19 to take his deposition? Because I was trying to
20 plan my case as well. And so, they decided not to
21 take his deposition. That's -- that's up to them.
22 So I -- you know, I'm just asking questions of the
23 doctor and I think they're perfectly standard
24 normal unobjectionable questions.
25 MR. WALLACE: Well, clearly what -- clearly

1904

1 they are objectionable because we are objecting to
2 them, and the fact that you don't think they are
3 doesn't mean they are non-objectionable.
4 The second point, Your Honor, is we did
5 express an interest in taking this gentleman's
6 deposition. He refused to sit for us unless we
7 paid him a minimum of \$1,500 and then -- basically
8 \$1,000 an hour thereafter. So, we opted not to
9 take his deposition.
10 MR. ACOSTA: And I spoke with him and then I
11 told them that he would do it for \$600 an hour,
12 which is the same that Dr. Back charged them and
13 they agreed that \$600 an hour would be a reasonable
14 time. And then they said, well -- and then he said
15 he wanted to do it for two hours and then he said,
16 no, I'll even do it for an hour. And I called
17 Mr. Lydon and told Mr. Lydon that he would sit for

18 an hour at \$600. That's all he needed. But that
19 was -- that was what the deal was and they chose
20 not to do it. You know, they paid Dr. Back \$600
21 an hour, so I don't know what the problem is.
22 MR. LYDON: I would still like to know what he
23 went there for and how it's relevant to this.
24 MR. ACOSTA: Well, I think we'll get there.
25 He treated him for seven months.

1905

1 MR. WALLACE: For what?
2 MR. ACOSTA: You'll find out.
3 MR. WALLACE: Well, I don't think that's fair,
4 Mr. Acosta.
5 MR. ACOSTA: You have his records and I have
6 his records.
7 MR. WALLACE: He puts a witness on the stand
8 and says, we'll find out what he treated him for.
9 There is no indication in this man's records what
10 he treated him for.
11 MR. ACOSTA: Well, then you can
12 cross-examination him on that basis.
13 THE COURT: I don't know why we would wait
14 until the middle of the witness's testimony to
15 complain about not being able to take the witness's
16 deposition. Certainly, if you'd wanted to take the
17 witness's depo --
18 MR. LYDON: I'm sorry, Your Honor.
19 MR. WALLACE: We weren't complaining about it.
20 THE COURT: Okay. Well, I heard the word
21 "surprise."
22 MR. LYDON: No, we're complaining about the
23 fact that we have yet to hear that he went to him
24 for any treatment that's relevant to this case.
25 THE COURT: Well, Mr. Acosta says he's going

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1 to be presenting that. And I don't think that
2 you-all can control the order of the presentation
3 of the testimony of the witness. I think he has
4 every right to bring out the qualifications, the
5 education, training and experience of the witness
6 upon which the jury will be advised that they are
7 to determine how to weigh the credibility and weigh
8 the testimony of this expert witness. So, I'm
9 going to permit him to do that.
10 If you think that this is some sort of
11 surprise, I will have the jury taken out and you
12 can ask the witness some questions. But it seems
13 very remote to me that it could be Mr. Acosta's
14 fault that it would be a surprise if the witness
15 was revealed, his records were given to you and you
16 were given an opportunity to depose him.
17 If there was a dispute over how much to pay
18 him, those are matters the Court tends to regularly
19 and the Court rules upon what's an appropriate
20 amount to pay a witness for these discovery
21 matters. So --
22 MR. LYDON: I didn't approach on that basis,
23 Your Honor. I wanted to know how this is relevant.
24 THE COURT: Right. Well, that's what we have
25 discovery for.

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1 MR. LYDON: And if we don't and if it isn't
2 relevant, I suppose we'll get the ability to move

3 to strike his testimony.
4 THE COURT: I'm sure you're aware you have
5 that ability. I've got a written motion here
6 regarding the prior testimony.
7 MR. LYDON: Yes.
8 THE COURT: All right, proceed.
9 (Proceedings in open court follow.)
10 MR. ACOSTA: May it please the Court?
11 THE COURT: Proceed.
12 BY MR. ACOSTA:
13 Q. Dr. Groff, you were going to give the jury an
14 example; do you remember what it was?
15 A. Yes. And I apologize for causing the delay.
16 But, you know, as a psychiatrist, when you asked me
17 about the instincts an I said the sexual and the
18 aggressive, I had to kind of thinking, "Oh my God, I
19 said sexual," so I thought I better clarify that.
20 And what I was going to explain was that, for
21 example, what we mean when we say sexual is not in the
22 strict sense of anything having to do with coitus or
23 relations at that level. What I really meant was, for
24 example, if you smoke a cigarette and the cigarette
25 touches your lips, it's an oral zone of pleasure. So I

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1 think we were talking about sexual in the sense of
2 anything that leads to pleasure. And I just wanted to
3 clarify that and I didn't mean we're limited only to
4 sex, but really to pleasure.
5 Q. Okay. Now, you've mentioned these three parts
6 of the mind, the unconscious, conscious an superego.
7 Can you be aware of your unconscious thoughts?
8 A. No. By definition, the unconscious is that
9 which you're not aware of. You cannot be aware of that
10 which you cannot be aware of.
11 Q. And is there a way to find out what is in the
12 unconscious?
13 A. Yes.
14 Q. And how do you do that?
15 A. That is the scientific tool that I was
16 discussing earlier, the psychoanalytic process. So by
17 this ingenious technique whereby we have learned through
18 the decades of practice with results that when patients
19 have in this, in quotes, "unconscious area" of the
20 mental apparatus thoughts that they are not aware of,
21 which -- and let's take the example of something that is
22 self-destructive, bad, and they are an aware of it. As
23 you use this technique of psychotherapy, the talking,
24 yeah, possibly sometimes if you have depression or
25 anxiety facilitated by chemicals which can help open up

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1 those pathways, then you might, through the course of
2 time, become aware of that which you formerly were not
3 aware of. That is the entire goal of therapy.
4 So, if a patient came to you and had something
5 he was not aware of and we could uncover that as being a
6 cause of what's led to his symptoms and we then saw the
7 person was getting relief and doing better and the
8 person was able to verbalize, discuss it, not just one
9 time like in Hollywood, but over an extended period of
10 time and receive the benefit, then we could say that
11 those things which were formerly unconscious have now
12 been made conscious an the person, again, has an
13 opportunity to make a choice about it now, whereas

14 before, they had no choice.

15 Q. Why is it that they had no choice?

16 A. Because this unconscious self-destructive
17 behavior was out of their ability to be aware of it.
18 So, if you would ask them about it, for example, a loved
19 one would say, "Well, why are you doing this thing which
20 is obviously bad for you?" They would make up what we
21 call one of two mental mechanisms of defense. The less
22 innocuous would be rationalization to make excuses for
23 why it's okay, despite everybody knows it's not a good
24 thing, like maybe picking at a sore on your skin or even
25 worse. An that becomes part of a very deeply ingrained

1910

1 type of bad behavior called denial.

2 And when I say "denial", I don't mean like
3 when you look at Webster's Dictionary with a small D the
4 way we use it in common parlaments, I'm using it as a
5 capital D, a tool for psychiatrists to try to understand
6 this mental mechanism of defense where a person is doing
7 a thing that's extremely self-destructive, killing
8 themselves, and yet would deny that they are doing it in
9 the psychiatric sense, the scientific sense.

10 Q. Can I ask you, when you say that this is a
11 mechanism of defense, is it a mechanism that they are
12 aware of or that they consciously employ?

13 A. No. It's unconscious. It's totally
14 unconscious, absolutely not conscious. It's kind of we
15 say -- a little joke, for example: If someone walked up
16 to someone and spit in their face and they might say,
17 "Oh, I think it's raining outside." It's kind of a joke
18 you tell medical students to give them the idea that
19 it's preposterous. How could you think to say it's
20 raining when somebody does such a horrible thing to you?

21 Well, I know it's not an easy concept for the
22 layman to understand, but unconscious means you are not
23 aware of it, but yet it's driving you surely as any
24 other thing that happens in your body. Like you are not
25 aware of your heart beating, and yet it goes on. You're

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1 not really aware of your breathing, and yet it goes on.
2 Well, this is a mental aspect that goes on without your
3 being aware of it; not aware. If you were aware, you
4 probably wouldn't do it.

5 Q. Is it known physically within the brain where
6 this unconscious mind resides?

7 A. Well, when you say "known", that has to be
8 explained. There are many, many theories. We know
9 circuits, pathways, locations. And some things are
10 known very particularly, but some things are not known
11 as well.

12 For example, when it comes to panic disorder,
13 we know very strongly through tests that in a certain
14 area of the hypothalamus, a certain group of little
15 cells called locus caeruleus, for reasons that probably
16 go back to our primitive beginnings on this planet, send
17 out signals of warning when a person, for example, gets
18 lost. This person then, for the first time in their
19 naive life, give out these signals of panic, like a
20 child who needs retrieval. And then perhaps the parent
21 or whoever is guarding that child can come and save that
22 child. So we believe that special group of little cells
23 that occurred lead to that first primitive response,
24 which is a survival thing, anthropologically speaking.

1 our brain. The frontal lobes which have to do with
2 cognition, that was old brain. We have a newer brain
3 which has a pathway from there to the front of your
4 brain which you now remember consciously. And now all
5 the time you're walking around with that conscious
6 awareness of that terrible experience.

7 So if, for example, the theory goes that you
8 should now come by a situation that originally triggered
9 that bad response which you're not aware of, reversedly
10 it sends back and starts stimulating that because you
11 are now reminded of it by your present awareness. So
12 that you might now consciously continue to avoid the
13 location where that very first terrible experience
14 occurred, even though there is no more danger there
15 anymore.

16 Now, we know through ablation of certain
17 areas, through neurosurgery, just -- that this happens
18 more often as not, that certain chemicals reduce it, et
19 cetera, et cetera. So, that's how we, in quotes, know.

20 Q. Now, you have mentioned a number of disorders;
21 an neurosis, panic disorder. I think there may have
22 been a couple others. Do you -- first of all, are those
23 diseases, considered diseases?

24 A. There was a time in psychiatry when -- in the
25 old diagnostic and statistical manuals, we adopted the

1 European methods of calling everything disorders,
2 diseases, reactions. So, it depends on how you want to
3 use the word. But for our purposes, you could say, yes,
4 they're disorders. Because diseases, people usually
5 attach with bacteria. And these disorders are more
6 brain functional things, which doesn't mean to say that
7 bacteria can't affect the brain. But okay.

8 Q. All right. Well, these disorders that you've
9 mentioned, do they have diagnostic criteria? In other
10 words, how do you determine one from another?

11 A. Well, throughout the years, we have developed
12 a manual known as the Diagnostic an Statistical Manual
13 of Mental Disorders. And it has gone from one to two to
14 three, which was about the time we were talking about,
15 then it went to four, an at the present time, it's up to
16 four slash TR, which is a text revision, an there are
17 plans to make a five within the next ten years.

18 In these manuals, you'll see a development of
19 exactly what I think you are asking of how, when we have
20 a diagnostic category, there are symptoms and ways of
21 determining who fits into these various categories. So
22 that with the globalization of medicine around the
23 world, if I were to pick up a phone and call somebody in
24 France -- no, not France, call somebody in some other
25 country, I would be able to communicate with them just

1 by giving them the diagnostic number which we give a
2 name and associated with it would be a whole bunch of
3 symptoms an categories which would help us right away
4 know we're talking about the same beast.

5 Q. Now in your practice, do you treat people with
6 addictions?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Do you treat people for alcohol dependence?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Is -- what's the difference between dependence
11 and addiction, if any?

12 A. Well, no. Actually, in the old DSM III, I
13 think they would have spoken about addiction and
14 certainly with the definitions of the World Health
15 Organization and, as I said, with the globalization an
16 trying to communicate with words. But today with the
17 DSM IV TR, talks about as dependence is really an
18 addiction; it's the same.

19 Q. Now at some point in time, did you have
20 occasion to treat John Eastman?

21 A. Yes, I did.

22 Q. And how did your treatment of him come about?

23 A. Although I can't say exactly, I believe he
24 must have called me and asked to set up an appointment
25 and then he came to see me for the initial evaluation.

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1 Q. Had you met him before you saw him
2 professionally?

3 A. No, I had not.

4 Q. Can you tell us what year it was that
5 occurred?

6 A. Yes. That was in 1980.

7 Q. And in 1980, did he come to see you?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And what was the purpose of his visit?

10 A. Well, he said that he was having a poor
11 reaction to the stress that was being caused by his
12 occupation. Actually, John Eastman is a celebrity. He
13 had a weekly radio show and a TV show an he was very
14 well known in the Tampa Bay area, although at that time,
15 I don't think I watched the show or listened to his
16 radio show very much. But he was known to be a
17 celebrity in this area. And as -- I assumed, as I had
18 treated other celebrities, it was not something that was
19 uncommon to me.

20 As a matter of fact, I had the occasion to
21 treat as a group apart -- an they are a group apart when
22 you deal with celebrities because they are unusual in
23 the same way that adolescents, for example, are
24 different than adults an children. They are a breed
25 apart.

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1 He was evidently in the throws of having
2 questions and being under stress because of his
3 occupational situation; at least that's what we were
4 talking about. And that's why he really came to me.
5 Someone must have referred him to me.

6 Q. And then what -- well, first of all, when a
7 patient comes to you an seeks treatment, what typically
8 do you do and what's the course?

9 A. Well, the first thing that one does when a
10 patient comes is you take a history, just like you would
11 about any patient for any reason. And we have a
12 pneumonic that I don't know if it's still being used,
13 but we always used called "soap." And the S stood for
14 the subjective complaints of the patient. Subjective
15 because obviously we talked about the unconscious.
16 Anything that a patient says is subjective. They cannot
17 be objective about themselves. That's just a sine qua
18 non.

19 Then it's up to the doctor, the O, to see what
20 objective findings are there, be they physical. If I

21 were, for example, as a physician to see certain things
22 that I thought were physical illnesses, a yellow
23 jaundice of the eye that a patient was not aware of or
24 some other physical things that's might be leading to an
25 emotional mental thing, that would be a part of my

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1 objective findings. And then the psychiatric objective
2 findings which are to talk about his state of mind, the
3 degree of anxiety, the degree of depression, the degree
4 of how he interacts with people. So, psychosocial.

5 Then the A stands for an assessment. When you
6 have completed these first two things, his subjective
7 complaints, your objective findings and you evaluate
8 those, then you can come up with a working diagnosis.
9 You say, well, amongst the differential diagnosis of
10 many things ranked in the order of most likely to least
11 likely, this is what I think is going on.

12 And then the last would be the P for soap,
13 which would be to make a plan. And the plan would be
14 laid out to make a course of therapy or to say to the
15 person, look, you have nothing and we don't need to see
16 you, there is nothing to do. Or if there is a plan that
17 you think you could help the person with, you lay that
18 out for them as well.

19 So, that's what would happen in the first or
20 certainly early sessions if you couldn't get all of the
21 information in the beginning.

22 Q. And did you follow that -- that plan with
23 Mr. Eastman?

24 A. Oh, of course.

25 Q. And can you tell us what the history was that

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1 you recall of him that he gave you?

2 A. Well, I've notes that I took which have been
3 described as cryptic, and I agree with that. I take in
4 the beginning maybe more notes, and as time goes on, you
5 don't want to be interfering with the relationship of
6 the patient by writing. So I do have some scribbles
7 which jog my memory and there are words there which
8 maybe lead me to the next session, the next session.

9 And essentially, the first session was spent
10 in talking about getting -- you know, you want to
11 develop a relationship with the person once you have
12 decided that you are going to see them, and by giving
13 them the comfort of being interested and asking about
14 their family, about their life, about things, but it
15 isn't always directive. Sometimes you allow them to
16 lead and make it comfortable.

17 So, I took notes about different statements and
18 things that he told me all the time, most everything
19 being in my brain formulating -- and I could never write
20 down as much as I'm thinking, so that's more or less
21 what happened.

22 Q. All right. Did you determine at the first or
23 second -- first few visits, what your treatment plan
24 with him might be?

25 A. Yes. Because of what he told me, I told him

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1 that I thought that we ought to meet on a weekly basis
2 for individual psychotherapy.

3 Q. Are there other treatment options other than
4 individual therapy or psychotherapy -- I mean, maybe not
5 for him, but in terms of patients that come to see you,

6 what are the treatment options?

7 A. Well, it would depend on what's wrong with the
8 patient. If I took it from its most stark for someone
9 who was totally out of touch with reality, a
10 schizophrenic, the treatment might include doses of
11 strong medications which are antipsychotic,
12 hospitalization and things like that.

13 For a patient who just had conflictual things
14 an was suffering from anxiety or depression, you might
15 choose or not choose to give a psychopharmacological
16 agent to help reduce that and at the same time, do
17 individual psychotherapy, possibly group psychotherapy,
18 possibly marital counseling, family psychotherapy if it
19 included children, and those would be some of the
20 options. An then you might have a patient in whom you
21 felt you could just give them something very minor an
22 say, "See how you do on this and come back in a couple
23 of months an see if any individual psychotherapy of a
24 supportive kind was even necessary." So, it could run
25 that entire gamut.

1920

1 Q. Let me ask you -- I'm going to ask you more
2 about Mr. Eastman, but I remembered something that I
3 wanted to ask you. You mentioned that you treated
4 addictions. Can you tell the jury what an addiction is?

5 A. Well, an addiction is when -- as we talked
6 about conditioning earlier, when a person is exposed to
7 a certain behavior, a certain characteristic movement, a
8 certain way of doing things, and that person begins to
9 continue to do that unbeknownst to themselves as to why
10 they continued to do that, eventually we reach a point
11 where that person is doing it more by rote, by habit, by
12 condition, by addiction than by any kind of a choice
13 that they would think about such as taking a bus; I will
14 take a cab today.

15 Certain behaviors -- like we used to talk
16 about in Korea about brainwashing. You can have a
17 person where you wear them down and get them to believe
18 a thought until eventually they forgot who planted the
19 thought, but that thought is somewhere in that
20 unconscious and it's driving them, moving them, and they
21 are totally not aware. So, you would use that as,
22 saying they are addicted to that thought, if you'll, but
23 that would be a stretch. Most of the time, we use the
24 word "addiction" to mean substances. Although, as you
25 can understand, you can just as well use addiction to --

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1 even an interpersonal relationship.

2 Now, in my background, especially going back
3 to the '60s when I was doing psychopharmacological work
4 and conditioning and things like that, we were very much
5 interested in substances an how they affected people.

6 And I should say immediately that at that
7 time, many of the substances that are illegal today were
8 not illegal then. We just didn't know enough about
9 them. So that I was very interested in finding out
10 about this concept of why do people do things of any
11 kind that are not in their best interest, that are
12 addictive, even though they are self-destructive. So,
13 that was my background in this area.

14 Q. What do you mean by psychopharmacological?

15 A. Well, pharmacological simply means chemicals,
16 drugs that a person takes, an psychopharmacological

17 mean to limit it to those which have an influence on the
18 mind or the brain or the brain on the mind.

19 Q. Now, is an addiction, from the
20 psychopharmacological point of view and the
21 psychological point of view something that can vary in
22 strength or can be, you know, mild one day and strong
23 another day?

24 MR. WALLACE: Objection to leading, Your
25 Honor.

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1 THE COURT: Overruled as to leading, but the
2 Court is becoming concerned that the witness is a
3 treating physician, and one would think that he's
4 going to be telling us about treatment at some
5 point. Are we going to be getting to that soon?

6 MR. ACOSTA: Yes, sir.

7 THE COURT: Okay.

8 MR. ACOSTA: He -- I just want to make sure
9 that when he gets to that point, that we're all
10 talking about the same thing. Otherwise, I will
11 have to -- we'll talk about the treatment and I
12 will have to explain it -- have him explain it
13 after.

14 THE COURT: Well, since we don't know what
15 he's going to talk about, it's hard to have him
16 explain that in a vacuum, but --

17 BY MR. ACOSTA:

18 Q. Well, let me ask you, did you treat
19 Mr. Eastman for any addictions?

20 A. Yes, I did.

21 Q. Okay. So, can you explain to the jury, you
22 know, whether an addiction is something that a person
23 has control over it?

24 A. Yes, I could. I think I need to explain that
25 addiction is an all or nothing premise. It's not

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1 something that you can have just a touch of. You do a
2 certain thing until you get past a certain threshold and
3 then you are addicted. And this has led to a lot of
4 confusion, sometimes even between colleagues, who get
5 confused with having a touch of something, getting more
6 of it and being it.

7 Now in medicine, we have those things which
8 follow the rule, like I like to call it a thermostat or
9 a rheostat. Addiction follows the rule of a thermostat:
10 Reach a temperature, it's on; another temperature, it's
11 off. Your dimmer switch at home, that works like a
12 rheostat. You can have nothing. You can have all the
13 grades up to brightness until it's full.

14 You don't get a touch of pregnancy. You
15 either are pregnant or you're not pregnant. You don't
16 get a touch of diabetes. You have it or you don't have
17 it. But there are things that follow the rheostat. You
18 can have a little pneumonia, you can have a little bit
19 of a cold, a bad cold. But when it comes to addiction,
20 it's a thermostat. You reach that point, that
21 threshold, you are now addicted. And once you're
22 addicted, you're addicted. It's all or nothing.

23 Q. Now, does that apply to cigarettes?

24 A. Oh, yes.

25 Q. Does it apply to alcohol?

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1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And how do you go about treating an addiction?
3 A. Which doesn't mean to say that everyone
4 becomes addicted to alcohol. But if you are addicted,
5 it applies as you either are or you're not. Oddly
6 enough, there are people who drink alcohol in moderation
7 or whatever and never get addicted. But that's not what
8 we're talking about.

9 You asked me what addiction is, and I'm
10 telling you if the medical diagnosis is achieved
11 properly that a person under the DSM, whichever one you
12 happen to be using, is addictive or dependent, then they
13 are or they are not. And you have validating points to
14 help you with this.

15 Q. Okay. Now, would you tell us what your course
16 of treatment was with respect to John Eastman? First of
17 all, did you do any objective testing of him or have any
18 objective testing done?

19 A. Yeah. Now we're back to before about
20 subjective and objective. I consider all that I do is
21 objective because of my teachers, my books, my training.
22 So that mental status examination an everything I do, I
23 consider objective. Now, there are other things that
24 could be done like certain psychometric tests, if that's
25 what you are talking about. I consider them non -- the

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1 truth of the matter is, they are not objective. They
2 are really subjective because they are not exams that
3 really tell you anything more than a good clinician
4 should take. So, I did not do any type of psychometric
5 testing.

6 Q. What is a psychometric test?

7 A. Well, for example, if you could do an MMPI, if
8 you would do a Wechsler-Bellevue or any number of a
9 thousand or thousands of tests that people do known as
10 psychometric testing. I think they have a limited value
11 in the hands of qualified psychologists who study how to
12 do psychometric testing, but then it could only be to
13 support what you are doing and help you understand it
14 better. But you don't need it to validate anything.
15 And in my practice, it's very, very rare that I would
16 find that I need to do --

17 A good test, for example, would be a
18 Rorschach, a good projective test. Sometimes I would
19 employ that through a psychologist. But in his case, I
20 did not need anything like that --

21 Q. All right?

22 A. -- for Mr. Eastman.

23 Q. Now, what did you -- did you assess
24 Mr. Eastman at some point?

25 A. Yes, I did.

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1 Q. And is the assessment the same thing as a
2 diagnosis?

3 A. The assessment leads to a diagnosis.

4 Q. And did you ultimately form a diagnosis with
5 respect to Mr. Eastman?

6 A. Yes, I did and I'm going to have to explain to
7 you that my diagnosis includes things for which he did
8 not originally come to me, but which were developed in
9 the course of our therapy.

10 Q. All right.

11 A. Can I explain that, please?

12 Q. Yes.

13 A. Because otherwise, it would sound silly what
14 I'm going to say. Mr. Eastman did not come to me for
15 anything to do with cigarette smoking. He came to me
16 because of the stressors that were affecting his
17 performance at work, his social relations. I happened
18 to, for my own personal reasons that I've taken
19 almost -- you could say it's an oath as a psychiatrist,
20 as a physician, that there are certain things when the
21 patient comes to me, even if they didn't come to me for
22 that, I should at least discuss it and bring it to their
23 attention.

24 Those are three things that I had always
25 dedicated myself to: One was if they smoked cigarettes,

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1 two was if they used alcohol and three was if they were
2 obese. And it's in that spirit that I discussed with
3 him, as taking a history of any patient, every doctor
4 does, we take a history of the substances that are toxic
5 that they put in their body that they use. The most
6 toxic, of course, being nicotine. Do you smoke? You
7 have to know that. So, that's part of a routine
8 examination of any patient.

9 But I always took it a step further and not
10 only asked them and jot it down, but I then feel that
11 because it's for a psychiatrist, clear evidence of a
12 self-destructive type of behavior and we're trying to
13 deal with the unconscious and see what the motivations
14 are and how that might tie into their occupational
15 problems, that we started to discuss this.

16 He was reluctant. He said, "I didn't come to
17 you to talk about this." All my patients -- not all,
18 but many, "I didn't come to you to talk about smoking.
19 We're talking about overweight or smoking. Why are you
20 wasting my time and money?" And I always have to say to
21 them, "Look, it's just part of what we have to do. We
22 have to talk about it."

23 It was in the course of developing our
24 relationship as time went by that that came clear, that
25 he was addicted to nicotine and that that became a part

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1 of the diagnosis.

2 Q. And you mentioned that he didn't come to you
3 for that purpose. First of all, how long was it that
4 you treated him?

5 A. I treated him for a period of about six
6 months.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. On a weekly basis.

9 Q. On a weekly basis?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And when he came to you, did you have to get
12 any commitment from him as to the amount of time that he
13 would spend with you?

14 A. Yes. I tell every patient at the beginning
15 that a course of therapy has certain limits. And
16 depending on what their problem is I try to give them
17 an idea of what we're going to look for. So it's rare,
18 if ever, that a patient would come in therapy for less
19 than three months. A course of therapy will often be
20 six to nine months, and I explain that to the patient.

21 Q. And at some point during the course of
22 treatment, did Mr. Eastman express a conscious desire to
23 try to quit smoking?

24 A. Oh, yes. We formed a -- what's known in
25 psychiatry as a dyadic relationship. It was a good

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1 relationship between patient and doctor. We were
2 getting somewhere. We were dealing with other matters,
3 other feelings and thoughts about self-destructive
4 behaviors. And at some point, we became allies in
5 treating his addiction.

6 You know, at times he would actually get
7 jittery when he would try. And he -- you know, I laid
8 out a course of therapy for what he had to do, how he
9 had -- how much he was smoking, he should start cutting
10 down, he would get below certain levels, and we worked
11 on that.

12 Q. Was that an accepted method at that time? You
13 are describing cutting down. Why -- first of all, why
14 would you do it in a step down way?

15 A. I wouldn't. Actually, just as in alcohol, I
16 believe and I think the finest minds in the area of
17 toxicology believe that the only answer is total
18 abstinence. But so very few people can do that. And
19 you don't want to shock a patient and force them to do
20 something they don't want to do, even though it probably
21 wouldn't be as bad as they thought. So usually what you
22 try to do is what the patient will allow you to do, and
23 you're grateful that you're at least working on the
24 problem. And in most cases in this case, as I
25 recall, the best we could do was to try to strengthen

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1 the idea of -- especially because, you know, people have
2 the idea that smoking relaxes them and it becomes that
3 kind of habit in the mind, even though it actually makes
4 them more jittery. So, it's a contradiction. But
5 nonetheless, if they believe that and you want to take
6 it away totally, it might lead to great resistance in
7 therapy.

8 Q. Did he cooperate with you?

9 A. In the beginning, he cooperated very nicely and
10 we were moving along. As I told you, I thought we would
11 last six to nine months in therapy. He prematurely
12 terminated his therapy, by the way. He did not
13 successfully complete the course of therapy.

14 Q. After six months?

15 A. After six months, yes.

16 As a matter of fact, as I recall looking at
17 the notes, what we call a resistance to therapy, which
18 is, again, unconscious, the patient is not aware of it.
19 But for example, you find the patient calling to cancel
20 appointments. So when they come the next time, you say,
21 well, I wonder if you really think the reason you
22 couldn't find 45 minutes during that week was so
23 important. Oh, no, it really happened. I couldn't --
24 see, those are all unconscious excuses for why, but you
25 as a therapist begin to understand you're losing the

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1 patient. They are beginning to drift away on an
2 unconscious level. They are not even aware.

3 Now, you might hypothesize the reason is it's
4 getting too uncomfortable, too hot, they don't want to
5 give up or other things are happening which stress them
6 out. But whatever it is, it's a qualified therapist,
7 you need to take all this information in, work with it,
8 and try to explain to the patient and make that which

9 was unconscious, conscious.
10 Q. Now, did the subject of alcohol come up
11 between you and Mr. Eastman?
12 A. Yes, but never as a major issue.
13 Q. Did you make any assessment or diagnosis that
14 related to alcohol use?
15 A. No, alcohol was not a problem.
16
17 Q. Related to alcohol use?
18 A. No. Alcohol was no problem.
19 Q. Now, can you tell the jury just in summary
20 form, perhaps, what your -- the course of treatment was
21 for Mr. Eastman and what you attempted to do for him?
22 A. What often happens is by the time 12 weeks go
23 by and you have established a relationship with the
24 patient, you are working well together, he has
25 confidence in you and begins to believe in some of the

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1 principles of what you are trying to teach him.
2 You know the word doctor actually comes from
3 the Latin word dosseri, which means to teach. It's not
4 just to treat a patient, but it's to teach a patient.
5 And nowhere greater than in psychiatry is the
6 relationship where you are teaching the patient the
7 things they didn't know and give them the tools to be
8 able to improve themselves.
9 So by the time 12 weeks went by we were
10 solidly working as a team in the therapy. And I really
11 felt that we were going to get somewhere, that we were
12 starting to deal with cutting down, we were starting to
13 deal with other problems. And suddenly, maybe because
14 of extraneous things or whatever, I began to see the
15 resistances with the capital R, the unconscious
16 resistance to therapy appear. And I was trying to
17 interpret them to the patient. And I felt more and more
18 I'm losing him. Until finally at one point we had to
19 terminate the therapy because it really wasn't
20 succeeding.
21 But if it had been or if he was -- I don't
22 want to say he wasn't cooperative, but on an unconscious
23 level he couldn't muster it, he left without being
24 helped in that area.
25 Q. Now, did he -- when you say on an unconscious

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1 level, he couldn't muster it, what do you mean by that?
2 A. Could you repeat that, I missed that.
3 Q. You said on an unconscious level he couldn't
4 muster it. I don't know exactly --
5 A. Yeah, what I meant to say is that the goal
6 between the doctor and the patient was to take that
7 which was unconscious, that the person was
8 self-destructive about, that they're doing, that they
9 formerly were unaware of and to make it more aware, more
10 aware, more aware.
11 Q. And did you make him aware that the smoking
12 was self-destructive?
13 A. At one point I thought that we had brought it
14 up to a level of awareness that he was working with me,
15 and I had a hope -- because we were cutting down on it.
16 But you do have to understand that there was this
17 problem of withdrawal. And as he tried cutting down, he
18 needed the support of the therapy to help him overcome
19 the irritability, the anger. And then there is this

20 hodgepodge of is it only because he's cutting down the
21 cigarettes that he now is having problem with his main
22 reason for coming, which was his professional life. And
23 that was things that were working together simultaneous,
24 which I believe brought him under great stress so he
25 couldn't muster, as I say, maybe he couldn't bring up

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1 enough to help his own illness to be less
2 self-destructive.

3 Q. Was it for lack of trying?

4 A. No. No, I think he tried very hard.

5 MR. ACOSTA: I think that's all the questions
6 I have.

7 THE COURT: All right. Cross-examination.

8 CROSS-EXAMINATION

9 BY MR. WALLACE

10 Q. Good morning, Dr. Groff.

11 A. Good morning, sir.

12 Q. David Wallace, we met in the elevator this
13 morning.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Good to see you again, sir.

16 All right. Now, you are a psychiatrist;
17 right?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. And that's -- or actually you're a
20 psychoanalyst, is your specialty as a psychiatrist;
21 correct?

22 A. No. I have been psychoanalyzed myself, and I
23 practice psychoanalytically oriented psychotherapy. But
24 the term psychoanalyst is a protected term for those who
25 have gone to an institute of psychoanalysis and carry a

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1 card to such. I am not a psychoanalyst.

2 Q. That will save us some time. Thank you very
3 much?

4 A. You are welcome.

5 Q. All right. Let's talk a little bit about your
6 practice, doctor. First of all, as I took your
7 testimony, your psychiatric practice is exclusively
8 private at this point in your career?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And why don't you tell us, please, what that
11 means?

12 A. That patients come to me as a self-employed
13 person. I have no employer.

14 Q. And how long have you been in private practice
15 yourself, Dr. Groff?

16 A. Since 1971.

17 Q. Do you work out of your home?

18 A. No, no. I have an office.

19 Q. As part of your practice, do you subscribe --
20 or prescribe psychiatric medications on occasion as
21 appropriate?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Is there a certain profile for the patients
24 that you typically see in your practice? Do they tend
25 to have certain conditions or problems that would help

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1 us understand your particular expertise?

2 A. No. I could rather describe it as eclectic.

3 Q. Which means very, very --

4 A. Very broad -- yes, a broad spectrum of

5 patients.

6 Q. And how much -- what percentage of your
7 practice, Dr. Groff is related to the treatment of
8 substance abuse?

9 A. Throughout the years since 1971, I would say
10 with both adults and adolescents maybe 10, 15 percent.

11 Q. So it's a part of your practice, but it's a
12 smaller part of your practice --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- treatment of substance abuse problems?

15 A. I don't have exact statistics, but off the top
16 of my head had to guess, I would say something like
17 that.

18 Q. All right. Have you ever run a smoking
19 cessation clinic --

20 A. No.

21 Q. -- Dr. Groff? And that's -- I think the way I
22 took your testimony was that it sounded to me as if you
23 have patients who will come to you with stressors in
24 their life, serious conditions, or neuroses or anxieties
25 which they might be struggling and if they happen to be

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1 smoking, you have made it your practice or if they
2 happen to be abusing alcohol or they happen to be obese,
3 at some point inject that into the therapy and help make
4 the patient conscious of that part of their life, is
5 that what you are saying?

6 A. Well, actually more than that. At the initial
7 evaluation, at the very beginning, as ever doctor will
8 take a history of whatever toxic substances a person is
9 taking into their body or whatever they're doing, we
10 learn -- and that's -- going back to medical school, to
11 always ask about tobacco, always ask about alcohol, and
12 obesity became very important in the '50s.

13 So as part of that, when I would become aware
14 of a patient who had excesses in any one of these three
15 areas, even though that is not what they came to me for,
16 they may have come to me for marriage counseling. If I
17 found that was a part of it, I would then explain to
18 them and hope that they wouldn't be upset by that, but I
19 would like to discuss that as a part of their behavior
20 because I felt that that was a -- an unconscious thing
21 that is going on that if they would look at that as
22 well, it might help them to understand more of the
23 things for which they think they're coming.

24 Q. Sure. And then these sorts of things that as
25 an experienced trained professional that you try to

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1 elicit from your patients, the things that they might
2 not be aware of. For instance, like they smoke
3 cigarettes or they drink alcohol or that they're obese.
4 When you observe those -- that information, do you try
5 to put that into your notes as part of the initial
6 assessment, some of your objective findings and
7 observations of the patient early on in your treatment?

8 A. Well, it's so routine that I might just not
9 even bother to write it down, unless it was really
10 something very serious.

11 Q. Now, how many --

12 A. If the person came me for that, for example --

13 Q. Right.

14 A. Then that might be different.

15 Q. Can you tell me, Dr. Groff how much patients

16 you have treated in your 30, 31 years or so of practice
17 that came to you without realizing they smoked
18 cigarettes?
19 A. I don't think I ever said what you just said.
20 Q. So the answer is no, you have never had anyone
21 come to you who was unaware of the fact that they smoked
22 cigarettes?
23 A. I can't hardly believe that somebody doesn't
24 know they're smoking cigarettes. I never said a person
25 doesn't know they're smoking cigarettes. I said they're

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1 not aware of the destructiveness of the smoking of the
2 cigarettes and rationalize about it and continue to do
3 it despite it not being a good thing for them, but of
4 course they know they're doing it.
5 Q. And of course based on what you just said,
6 doctor, they know it's bad for them, otherwise why would
7 they be rationalizing it; correct?
8 A. This is hard to say. I would have to see
9 which particular case and which person we are discussing
10 and if I had a particular case, I might be able to
11 evaluate that. But I don't think I can make a blanket
12 statement.
13 Q. I -- you know -- but generally,
14 rationalization is, as I understood what you explained
15 was, it's this defense mechanism that we have as human
16 beings that allows us to deal with information that
17 might be creating conflict and stress in our mind about
18 our behavior; correct?
19 A. Correct, yes.
20 Q. And I guess you can correct me if I'm wrong,
21 but it seems to me that in order to engage that coping
22 mechanism or that rationalization process, we have to
23 have as individuals some degree of conflict originally
24 about a particular behavior; right?
25 A. No.

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1 Q. No?
2 A. Why would you postulate that?
3 Q. Well, why don't you help us understand why
4 people rationalize then, or is it only certain types of
5 people who rationalize?
6 A. No, I think anyone can rationalize.
7 Q. Okay. And why would a person typically feel
8 the need, consciously or unconsciously, to rationalize
9 something?
10 A. Well the rationalizations as I use it it can
11 only be unconsciously because that's the mental
12 mechanism of defense.
13 Q. Okay. Now as you --
14 A. Now rationalization -- excuse me.
15 Q. You go ahead and finish.
16 A. Rationalization is probably one of the
17 healthier mental mechanisms of defense. We all use it
18 at various times. I think if you recall earlier I
19 talked about denial, which is one of the more serious
20 mental mechanisms of defense. It's probably like the
21 same as rationalization, but very much worse. People
22 use mental mechanisms of defense to avoid dealing with
23 something that makes them uncomfortable. They don't
24 want to deal with it.
25 Q. Right. They're doing something that someone

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1 might be telling them is bad for their health and they
2 shouldn't do, and that's where the rationalization comes
3 from; right?
4 A. Yes, it could happen that way.
5 Q. And all you're telling us is that although
6 psychiatrists are aware of this and know about it and
7 can come and talk and explain it, the people who are
8 doing the rationalization, they're unaware of it. They
9 don't know it. Is that your testimony, Dr. Groff?
10 A. No. I think there might be psychiatrists who
11 also have rationalizations and there may even be
12 psychiatrists who smoke. And despite being confronted
13 with all the obvious things would still make their own
14 rationalizations and continue doing the self-destructive
15 things. So that's possible as well.
16 Q. Sure, but I --
17 A. No one is free of using this mental mechanism
18 of defense.
19 Q. Right. As human beings we all have the
20 ability to rationalize; correct?
21 A. Well, not all human beings, but let's say most
22 normal human beings.
23 Q. Around you're not telling the ladies and
24 gentlemen of the jury that only psychiatrists understand
25 the fact that rationalization occurs?

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1 A. Oh, no.
2 Q. Okay. The -- as an individual, I'm capable or
3 let's say Mr. Eastman, he's -- I think he's the best
4 example. He's capable of understanding that he might be
5 rationalizing his behavior, coping with behavior that's
6 creating discomfort for him; correct?
7 A. No, that's incorrect. Let me explain to you.
8 Q. Please. Thank you.
9 A. If you understand what the word
10 rationalization means, and I will try to define it for
11 you one more time. It is a mental mechanism of defense
12 that resides in the unconscious. Mr. Eastman could very
13 well evaluate you and your rationalizations, but he
14 could not possibly by definition understand his own
15 rationalizations because they're unconscious, he is not
16 aware of them.
17 Q. But, doctor --
18 A. But did you follow what I was saying?
19 Q. Absolutely. Thank you. I'm clear.
20 I mean, I could be diagnosed with cancer, for
21 instance, and I'm a lawyer, I'm not an oncologist
22 or anything else in the medical profession, but
23 when my doctor says; David, I'm sorry, you have
24 cancer. I can understand that, can't I? I can
25 hear that and understand that, even though --

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1 A. Well --
2 Q. Hold on, I have to finish my question.
3 A. Okay.
4 Q. Even though I might not be able to explain to
5 my doctor what cancer is, I can understand that I have
6 cancer; right?
7 A. Is that your question?
8 Q. Yes.
9 A. Good. You're having a problem with this, and
10 I have to explain this to you. The unconscious means
11 that which we are unaware of. In the example you just

12 gave, if your doctor tells you that you have cancer, you
13 can understand that. You're aware of that. But if you
14 were to say just for example -- I'm inventing an example
15 now to help you understand. If you were to then say to
16 your doctor, "so I'm still taking my trip this June to
17 Europe and taking the kids and all that." And he just
18 got finished telling you that you got three weeks to
19 live, then I think you would be using a rationalization,
20 which he would recognize from what you said that you're
21 not aware of it.

22 Q. Sure.

23 A. But he would be aware of it.

24 Q. Right, but --

25 A. Do you follow me now?

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1 Q. I have been with you from the word go, sir.
2 Why don't you tell us based upon the six months or so
3 that you spent treating this man, Mr. Eastman, whether
4 you came to the opinion that he was unaware of the fact
5 that he smoked cigarettes, is that your testimony?

6 A. Went a little fast, but here is the way I
7 think it happened. In the beginning he didn't come to
8 me for cigarette smoking. I brought it to his
9 attention, so he was really nor consciously nor
10 unconsciously aware of the fact that the cigarette
11 smoking would be an issue.

12 At my request when we started to expose it and
13 discuss it on a conscious level, we began through the
14 techniques of psychoanalytically oriented psychotherapy
15 to try to help him to explore his unconscious.

16 As that process continued, and as that
17 developed, he began to little by little gain more
18 insights into not only the fact that he was smoking an
19 awful lot and didn't seem to be able to deal with it and
20 didn't want to deal with it, but began to see the
21 self-destructive qualities of that and we began to work
22 on it.

23 So somewhere after a few months it would be
24 okay to say he started to now become aware of something
25 which he formerly was unaware of.

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1 Q. All right. So to the extent he was unaware of
2 it, he was unconscious of it, he didn't want to think
3 about it, he didn't want to talk about it, you as an
4 experienced trained medical professional in psychiatry
5 helped him to come to the realization that he smoked
6 cigarettes; correct?

7 A. And more than that, also that they were not
8 good for him and they were destructive to him and even
9 influencing the reason for which he did come to me in a
10 negative way.

11 MR. WALLACE: Your Honor, may I have the clerk
12 mark this.

13 THE COURT: All right.

14 MR. WALLACE: Please, as DX 11,000 for
15 identification.

16 (Thereupon, Defendant's Exhibit 11,000 was
17 marked for identification.)

18 BY MR. WALLACE

19 Q. Dr. Groff, what I'm going to do -- actually,
20 may I please borrow your stapler, madam clerk -- is hand
21 you your records from your treatment of Mr. Eastman.
22 It's been marked DX 11,000. And what I'm going to do is

23 there are parts of these records, Dr. Groff that contain
24 some pretty sensitive private information, so I don't
25 want to display all of that information to the jury.

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1 But obviously it's not private to you because you
2 treated him. And so there will be occasions in my
3 questioning where I'm going to have you look at certain
4 entries to tell me whether information appears there,
5 okay. But I don't want to disclose everything in this
6 man's records because a lot of it is private to the
7 jury. Okay. But we will be displaying parts of it.

8 What I would like to do is first go through --
9 you have got your notes of your treatment of
10 Mr. Eastman, and first I would like to ask you whether
11 those notes are the -- the notes that you typically
12 prepare when you see a patient like Mr. Eastman?

13 A. I don't think I can say that they're typical.
14 I think that I have other cases where notes are more
15 voluminous. I have other cases where note are much more
16 scanty. It just depends on the circumstances.

17 Q. Okay. So -- and as you have indicated, your
18 practice has been varied over the years so would the
19 notes that you have there, the two pages of notes for
20 your treatment of Mr. Eastman be typical of some of the
21 patients that you see where the records are somewhat
22 scanty?

23 A. Yes, sir.

24 Q. Not all of your patients -- you don't develop
25 voluminous records for all of your patients; correct?

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1 A. Yes, that's correct. Let me modify that. It
2 just depends on why they came to me. For example, if I
3 knew at the outset that I was going to have to write a
4 particular report if the patient was referred to me from
5 another physician for another reason. I might treat it
6 differently getting ready to put a report together at
7 that very moment so that at the end of that it could
8 have a different structure. Also there are times when a
9 patients only sent for an evaluation.

10 So depending on why the patient came. But you
11 would be correct in saying if a patient came such as
12 Mr. Eastman without any special reason for it leading to
13 making a report or something, I might do something like
14 this.

15 Q. And I would also be correct to say that
16 Mr. Eastman based on your testimony did not come to you
17 for help in quitting smoking; correct?

18 A. That's correct.

19 Q. All right. I think as you put it, he came to
20 you for -- to help himself manage some of the other
21 stressors he was experiencing in life, primarily
22 occupationally; correct?

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. As well as based on my review of the records
25 stressors in issues which she was dealing based on his

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1 relationships with people in his life; correct?

2 A. Actually I think the primary thing was his
3 occupation. I think it had to do more with his
4 television shows and television business and things like
5 that. Because I know for a fact that that stressed him
6 out tremendously. He had -- something for example, that
7 stood out in my mind was that he was very busy and

8 concerned with starting a television show here at the
9 pier in St. Petersburg. And that thing hit a snag and
10 fell through and that really devastated him. That
11 really hurt him a great deal. And I think the reasons
12 for which he came to me had more to do with his
13 occupational life rather than his socially personal
14 life. Although that was discussed.

15 MR. WALLACE: Can we see the first slide,
16 please.

17 Q. That's a copy of the entirety of your medical
18 records or treatment of Mr. Eastman; right, Dr. Groff?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And that's a copy of what you're holding in
21 your hand; correct, sir?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. So last night when I was looking at these --
24 well, I made a couple observations. And I just want
25 to -- you can take my word for some of these. You got

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1 the records. According to the records the first time
2 you saw Mr. Eastman was January 11st, 1980; correct?

3 A. That is correct.

4 Q. Some 23 years ago?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. The last time you saw Mr. Eastman was for this
7 session right here, July 9th, 1980; correct, that last
8 one? Next the to the last entry?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. In your records. Because the last appointment
11 you made Mr. Eastman didn't make, did he?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. He was a no show. Can you help us
14 understand -- will you show me the no show slide,
15 please. What I have done is, as I indicated, you saw
16 him according to your records over a 6-month period from
17 January 11th to early -- I'm sorry, January to early
18 July of 1980; correct?

19 A. January 11 of '80 through January 16 when he
20 did not appear for that last appointment.

21 Q. July 16.

22 A. Excuse me, July. I apologize.

23 Q. All right. Now, you can either take my word
24 for it, sir, or you can do it yourself. But if you add
25 up all the appointments with Mr. Eastman it adds up to

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1 26 appointments.

2 A. Yes. I have it noted as 26 scheduled
3 appointments and four that he didn't show up for.

4 Q. And as a no show as in he -- he didn't call
5 you in advance, because what I found right here, 1, 2,
6 3, 4, 5 -- we have got six no shows -- I'm sorry, let's
7 do it another way. This is the one where he didn't show
8 and then treatment was terminated. This is the last
9 one, July 16th; correct?

10 A. Yeah. 1, 2, 3, and 4/16.

11 Q. So then we have got January -- February 27th,
12 1980, John Eastman C/A is canceled appointment; right?

13 A. Right.

14 Q. And he canceled the appointment according to
15 your notes because he had a business meeting; correct?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. April 16 he is late, which you note on your
18 records. And then he doesn't show at all, which is N

19 period S period; right?

20 A. Right.

21 Q. And then it says -- your notes indicate that
22 it got, quote, seduced, closed quote. Do you have any
23 recollection at this point what got seduced had to do
24 with Mr. Eastman's inability to make his appointment
25 with you?

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1 A. Yes. I believe what he said to me when I
2 spoke to him on the phone was that something took him
3 away from keeping the session. What that was exactly, I
4 couldn't tell you.

5 Q. All right. And just to help us as we go
6 through these records in a little more detail, when you
7 have something in quotes in your record, I took that to
8 mean it was something Mr. Eastman told you; is that
9 accurate?

10 A. Not always, but I think --

11 Q. Or paraphrase?

12 A. Not always, but I think in this case it would
13 be. Seduced in itself is in quotes. So it wouldn't
14 necessarily mean that he said it, but it might mean that
15 it was some kind of description that he made as to why
16 he was unable to show.

17 Q. Sure. I mean that's why --

18 A. Here's an example of the rationalization.

19 Q. Yes. Well, sir, we've already moved on.
20 Okay. We're not talking about rationalization anymore.
21 We are talking about Mr. Eastman not showing up for his
22 appointment on April 16th because he got, quote,
23 seduced. And I'm just trying to understand how the word
24 seduced would get into your records.

25 The fact that it's in quotes led me to believe

1952

1 that it's something either directly verbatim that he
2 said or something close to what he said, and that's all
3 I'm trying to get at.

4 A. I believe that sounds like that's likely.

5 Q. And then the third cancellation is -- this
6 third cancellation or no show is May 21st. And it says;
7 January called to C slash A, cancel appointment;
8 correct?

9 A. Yes, that's what it says.

10 Q. And then it indicates that you had a T slash C
11 with John, which I took to mean a telephone
12 conversation?

13 A. Correct. I would say that's what that means.

14 Q. All right.

15 A. The logical order of that would be I'm
16 expecting him on 5/21. I get a phone call from Jan who
17 says he's going to cancel. And then afterwards he calls
18 me on the phone and I have a discussion with him.

19 Q. All right. And according to this entry for
20 May 21st, all we know is that you had a conversation
21 with him. We don't know what that conversation was
22 about. We don't know whether it was a session or
23 whether he just called to apologize for cancelling the
24 appointment; correct?

25 A. Yes.

1953

1 Q. And then just so we understand how this --
2 these other things happen, like where it says late,
3 late, late -- I take it that means that you're waiting

4 for a scheduled appointment. It's past the time the
5 hour was to begin. Mr. Eastman was not there. You know
6 late. You go about some of your business perhaps. He
7 never shows up, at which point you write; no show, or N
8 period S period?
9 A. Yes.
10 Q. What we have here is you saw Mr. Eastman. He
11 had 26 appointments with you; correct?
12 A. Yes.
13 Q. We counted all those up. And we have one,
14 two, three, four, five appointments that he either
15 cancels or doesn't show up for; correct?
16 A. Yes.
17 Q. So we are down to 21 appointments, right. Of
18 impacts -- 21 sessions that you had with him.
19 A. Yes.
20 Q. And then the last session was July 16th, and
21 he doesn't show up for that one; right?
22 A. Yes.
23 Q. And so you had -- you ended up out of 26
24 scheduled appointments that Mr. Eastman made with you,
25 the two of you were actually in session only 20 times

1954

1 over six months; correct?
2 A. This is correct.
3 Q. Now, if you could help me understand this, I
4 have struggled with this. Because it says; late no
5 show. This is the entry of July 16th. Refused -- in
6 parentheses -- refused CBG, close paren, arrow,
7 terminate, double backslash. What does that mean?
8 A. That actually says call back six.
9 Q. Call back six?
10 A. Yes.
11 Q. All right. What does; refused, call back six
12 mean?
13 A. A call back six was actually -- he lived out
14 of the area, and it's a long distance call, and I placed
15 a call to him, and the operator said that whoever it is
16 you tried to call refused to accept the call.
17 And as you could see as you so accurately
18 pointed out, that in the latter stages of our therapy he
19 began to show increasingly greater and greater
20 resistance to the therapy. So this indicated to me that
21 that was the final point, and I had explained to him
22 earlier, so there at that point I felt professionally
23 and medically okay with saying we might as well end the
24 therapy.
25 Q. Right. And --

1955

1 A. Which we did.
2 Q. I'm sorry, doctor?
3 A. Which we did.
4 Q. You terminated it or Mr. Eastman did?
5 A. Mutually. You could see we discussed that and
6 said, look, you're showing up less and less now, I think
7 there is unconscious motivations, things you don't want
8 to deal with. This therapy is not going to where I
9 would have hoped it would go. And I personally felt the
10 therapy had failed.
11 Q. Is there anything that happens in your office
12 with a patient that's conscious, Dr. Groff? Or is
13 everything unconscious?
14 A. Wow. No, I think most everything that happens

15 is conscious, sir.

16 MR. WALLACE: Can we have the first slide
17 again, please. Excuse me for crossing this.

18 Q. These are some of the entries I was telling
19 you. For instance, I don't want to go into these in
20 detail if people can't read them, but I want to address
21 the point, or have you explain the point better where
22 you reached the point of termination, this mutual
23 decision that therapy would not continue.

24 And what I observed last night in reviewing
25 your records is it kind of started strong and hard and

1956

1 the two of you guys are talking about a lot of things.
2 A lot of things being put on the table and he is showing
3 up for his appointments for the first few months;
4 correct?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And that's according to your notes, which has
7 been marked, DX 11,000; correct?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. All right. And then what happens is we've got
10 his first cancellation here in February, late February,
11 some two months into the treatment because of a business
12 meeting; right?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Right up here. You continue to see each other
15 through March. You have your first session on April
16 9th, and then a pattern begins to emerge in April;
17 correct, April 16th; late, no show, got seduced.

18 And then through May -- basically you got Jan
19 calls to cancel, and then late -- no show, late no show.
20 And what I understood you to be saying was through the
21 period May and June, the relationship -- or at least
22 Mr. Eastman's commitment, his motivation to go through
23 therapy consciously or unconsciously seemed to wane
24 somewhat; right?

25 A. Well, I think we should say whether it's

1957

1 consciously or unconsciously, because I think it's very
2 important.

3 Q. Was it conscious or unconscious?

4 A. For example, on a session that you mentioned
5 earlier -- early on I began to say that he is showing
6 resistance to therapy.

7 Q. Where do you say that, sir?

8 A. On 2/27/80 where John Eastman canceled the
9 first time and he had a business meeting.

10 Q. Right.

11 A. The very next session, 3/5, not that it's
12 important that I wrote it, but I did actually write it,
13 it says; discussed resistance to therapy. That's what
14 those symbols mean.

15 Q. Why don't you help me out a minute. Your
16 Honor, may I get right in the box with the doctor?

17 A. Must you?

18 Q. Well, I will stay back.

19 A. Why don't you go over there and read it from
20 there.

21 Q. I'm not consciously aware of a biting
22 tendency?

23 A. All right. I will put it over there.

24 Q. You do that. Which one do you want to show
25 me, sir?

1 A. You see.
2 Q. Did I not shower long enough today?
3 A. No, it's not that -- 2/27/80, John Eastman
4 cancel, had business meeting. You see 3/5.
5 Q. Right.
6 A. Discussed resistance. That's symbol for
7 resistance.
8 Q. Okay. That's one I couldn't make out.
9 A. It's cryptic. Discussed resistance.
10 Q. Right.
11 A. Was too open. Didn't like what he sees. And
12 it says; Susan Boots.
13 Q. Okay. That's what we don't want to go into.
14 A. You see early on the first time he didn't show
15 up I started to help interpret his unconscious with him
16 and say; look, you don't want to deal with things on a
17 conscious level. It's getting too hot for you.
18 Q. Right.
19 A. And that's maybe why you didn't show up.
20 Q. And what's your recollection of what
21 Mr. Eastman's reaction was to your confronting him with
22 the observation that he seemed to be resisting
23 treatment?
24 A. Well, this is always a dramatic moment in
25 therapy where you have to develop an alliance.

1 Q. Right.
2 A. So actually I welcome that early on that a
3 person has unconscious things that are driving them and
4 you have your ability then to sit down in the therapy
5 and explain to them. And this is what the whole thing
6 is about.
7 Because if you can do that, if you can get
8 them to understand one part about their unconscious you
9 might get them to understand about their addiction and
10 get them to understand other things that are truly
11 beyond their knowledge motivating them and moving them.
12 So that is a dramatic moment for a therapist where you
13 can interpret the unconscious.
14 Q. I appreciate that. I must have been unclear
15 so I'm going to ask the question again. What was
16 Mr. Eastman's reaction when you confronted him with your
17 thought, your observations that he was resisting
18 treatment?
19 A. Well, obviously this is 24 years ago.
20 Q. Right.
21 A. But the fact that he continued in therapy and
22 our relationship only got better is what Dr. Freud
23 explained and what we learned as psychotherapists that
24 that indicates that the resistance is being reduced. So
25 I could only extrapolate from this that it had a

1 positive meaning and that he was then willing to work
2 further and longer with me, which he did.
3 Q. Right. Well, I guess then what you're saying
4 is you were unable to observe any conscious reaction on
5 his part to your observation that he seemed to be
6 resisting therapy, is that what you're saying?
7 A. What I'm saying is that, you know, it's 24
8 years ago, and to really try to remember exactly how he
9 responded, you know, as you and I are responding right
10 now, is truly very difficult.

11 However, to extrapolate from the relationship
12 of what's most important, how it moves on from there I
13 think speaks for itself.
14 Q. All right. So the answer then to my question
15 is in layman's terms about your recollection of his
16 reaction is; I don't know, I don't remember; right?
17 Would that be accurate to the say?
18 A. Yes. I have no independent recollection of
19 what he looked like or what he said consciously.
20 Q. Where were you contacted by Mr. Acosta to
21 testify in this case?
22 A. I believe either by a letter or maybe a
23 telephone call. I can't recall.
24 Q. Are you charging Mr. Acosta for your time here
25 today?

1961

1 A. No, I'm not.
2 Q. What's your normal -- do you give depositions
3 sometimes in cases like this?
4 A. Oh, yes, I do.
5 Q. And what's your normal rate for sitting down
6 to talk with lawyers about patients that you may have
7 treated who are in litigation?
8 A. I haven't really gotten involved in the last
9 many years about this, but when I was doing it, my rate
10 was \$350 an hour. And very often I would allow the
11 judge in a case to determine what ought to be the
12 remuneration in a particular case. And then when I was
13 doing it a lot more, that's oh, 15, 20 years ago, I
14 actually had a fee schedule where I list very carefully
15 what had to happen and how it had to be paid and things
16 like that.
17 Q. Right. Excuse me for turning my back?
18 So you haven't really done it in a while?
19 A. No, I haven't been doing this kind of work in
20 the last, oh, 5 to 10 years, very little.
21 Q. But certainly there has been inflation since
22 the day you were charging \$300 an hour to sit and talk
23 with lawyers; right?
24 A. Unfortunately from what I hear I recall the
25 judge saying last time when I had a fee he asked the

1962

1 lawyer what do you charge per hour. And he said; well,
2 this doctor has more education than you, so he charged a
3 higher fee. I think the fees have actually gone down, I
4 don't know.
5 Q. So a fair compensation for your time, let's
6 say I want today sit down and talk to you for an hour.
7 I want to do that about a case, what would be fair
8 compensation? What would be fair for me to have to pay
9 you to sit and talk to you, take an hour of your time?
10 A. \$350 an hour.
11 Q. All right. Is it true, Dr. Groff when the
12 defendants in this case expressed an interest to taking
13 your deposition you told us that your charge was \$1000
14 an hour?
15 A. No, that's not true.
16 Q. Let's take a look at -- do you communicate by
17 E-mail, Dr. Groff?
18 A. Sometimes.
19 Q. All right. This is an E-mail that -- well,
20 let's see --
21 A. Yeah, minimum fee for deposition, 1500.

22 Usually I would charge 2500. But I thought, well, I
23 haven't done it for a while. My minimum fee would be
24 1500, which includes one hour minimum to one and a half
25 hours maximum. So now that would be at the rate of 1

1963

1 and a half hours. And then I said, any additional time
2 beyond 1 and a half hours would be \$500 an hour. This
3 is not just face to face. This is depositions and
4 in-court testimony from when I had a fee schedule in the
5 past.

6 Q. Well, actually --

7 A. And also I believe --

8 THE COURT: Just a minute, sir.

9 BY MR. WALLACE

10 Q. Dr. Groff, I'm sorry, you said after the
11 minimum payment to you of \$1,500, you said that your
12 charge thereafter would be \$500 per hour. But in fact
13 what you wrote was that your charge would be \$500 per
14 half hour?

15 A. I misspoke. It should be 500 per half hour.
16 If it went beyond the 1 and a half hours another half
17 hour would be \$500. That's what I would ask.

18 Q. And this is -- I mean, you don't deny this
19 came from your office, do you?

20 A. Oh, no, I sent that.

21 Q. You sent it to April -- Ms. April George who
22 appears to be a paralegal at Mr. Acosta's office?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Okay. All right. Let's talk about John
25 Eastman a little bit more. Did you have a personal

1964

1 relationship with Mr. Eastman before he came to you for
2 treatment?

3 A. No, not before.

4 Q. All right. Now, Mr -- there has been some
5 testimony in this case previously by Mr. Eastman that
6 the two of you got together and helped bring a very
7 famous therapist -- I think he's a therapist -- to the
8 Tampa area, a gentleman by the name of Dr. Timothy
9 Leary. Is that your recollection as well, sir?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Okay. Can you tell us what Dr. Timothy Leary
12 is or was?

13 A. Dr. Timothy Leary was a psychologist of quite
14 some fame at Harvard who had written a very large tome
15 on transactional psychology which is being still used
16 today. This man did a lot of research and ultimately
17 got involved in using psychodynamic drugs. And I think
18 became very infamous, rather than famous, for his use of
19 LSD, at least in the press, ultimately even got
20 arrested, was out of the country, came back to the
21 country, wrote many, many books on the psychedelic
22 experience and was considered quite the guru of
23 understanding drugs and behavior.

24 And at some point in the '70s, I guess it
25 was -- well, actually let me backtrack. When I was

1965

1 working for the space program, I was a research
2 consultant for NASA, and as part of my work for them, I
3 once paid a visit to this place that he and another -- a
4 couple of psychologists, one was Dick Albert and one
5 another one was Ralph Metzner. And I went there to
6 interview them. Unfortunately he wasn't there, but the

7 other two were. To make a long story short, I was very
8 interested in the '60s in that area of work.
9 Q. LSD?
10 A. I beg your pardon.
11 Q. LSD?
12 A. Oh, yes, LSD, mescaline.
13 Q. I'm sorry. What is mescaline, doctor?
14 THE COURT: I think we are wandering here a
15 little bit, aren't we.
16 MR. WALLACE: Your Honor, I will move on.
17 THE COURT: Okay.
18 BY MR. WALLACE
19 Q. When Mr. Acosta contacted you, what did he
20 tell you this case was about?
21 A. When Mr. Acosta contacted me. Actually I
22 think I sent that -- when I received the subpoena for
23 records that I sent to a Nancy Faggianelli, I believe.
24 Q. Yes, sir.
25 A. I discussed with her my fees. She wanted to

1966

1 set me down for deposition, it was all arranged. And I
2 didn't even know Mr. Acosta at that time, but only
3 thought that when I looked at the style of the subpoena
4 that it ought to go to these other people. So I just
5 faxed a copy over to them.
6 And my only contacts were with that firm and
7 then we had this problem where first they set me for
8 deposition and they said it was too much money. And I
9 said whatever you want to charge was okay with me. We
10 set the deposition again. The next thing it was
11 cancelled.
12 At that point I believe I heard either by
13 telephone or from Mr. Acosta's office, one way or
14 another, but I don't think anybody told me what the case
15 was about at that point.
16 Q. All right. Was -- did there come a time when
17 Mr. Acosta or someone working for him spoke to you and
18 told you what this case was about?
19 A. Yes. No, not actually in those words. I
20 think how it came about was there was this little up and
21 back about whether I would or would not be in
22 deposition. And then I received a package containing a
23 little document that showed my transcribed notes with a
24 little statement about it. And in that I came to
25 recognize that there was this lawsuit and what it had to

1967

1 deal with because it was all full of that thing about
2 the tobacco smoking and nicotine. I think that's how I
3 became aware of it.
4 Q. I'm sorry. What was full of tobacco?
5 A. This document that I believe was done by
6 Dr. Kaplan. He had read my report and I believe
7 Mr. Acosta's office sent it to me so I could be aware of
8 what he said about my report.
9 Q. So you had read the report prepared by
10 Dr. Kaplan, the Defendant's expert in this case?
11 A. I have, yes.
12 Q. And do you have any criticism of that report
13 in terms of its professionalism or comprehensiveness?
14 A. No. I think it's a very well done report.
15 And I think there are some things I would take issue
16 with, but certainly it sounded like a very airenditen
17 (phonetic) report.

18 Q. And airenditen (phonetic) means what, sir?
19 A. Studied, intelligent, well done from an
20 intellectual perspective.
21 Q. Okay. What I want to do now --
22 A. I don't know Dr. Kaplan, by the way.
23 Q. You don't know him even by reputation?
24 A. I have never heard of him.
25 Q. But based upon the report that he's prepared

1968

1 in this case which you reviewed, you have no reason to
2 question his credentials or his affiliates as a
3 psychiatrist; correct?
4 MR. ACOSTA: Object to the form of that.
5 THE COURT: Sustained.
6 BY MR. WALLACE
7 Q. Here's an example -- what I would like you to
8 do, Dr. Groff, please, is take a look at the first two
9 sessions. Your notes of your first two sessions,
10 January 11th and I think -- and I think it's January
11 15th of 1980. I was unable to make that date out. What
12 I would like you to do, please, is to review those two
13 sessions -- your notes of those two sessions, read them
14 to yourself, and tell me whether they mention cigarette
15 smoking, tobacco or nicotine or addiction.
16 THE COURT: Are we getting close to the
17 conclusion?
18 MR. WALLACE: We could take a break right
19 after this, Your Honor.
20 THE COURT: Okay.
21 A. No, they do not.
22 Q. Okay. The first two times you met with
23 Mr. Eastman there was no discussion of cigarette
24 smoking?
25 A. No, I cannot say that.

1969

1 Q. Your notes do not -- you're right. Let me
2 re-ask the question. According to -- your notes do not
3 contain any memorialization of the fact that the two of
4 you discussed cigarette smoking in either of the first
5 two sessions; correct?
6 A. That's correct.
7 MR. WALLACE: Your Honor, we can take a break
8 now.
9 THE COURT: All right. We will take a
10 15-minute recess.
11 THE BAILIFF: All rise.
12 (A recess was taken, after which the following
13 proceedings were had:)
14 (10:50 a.m.)
15 THE BAILIFF: All rise. Court is now back in
16 session.
17 THE COURT: Are we ready to continue?
18 MR. WALLACE: Yes, Your Honor.
19 THE COURT: Let's have the jury back.
20 THE BAILIFF: Yes, Your Honor.
21 (The following took place in the presence and
22 hearing of the jury.)
23 THE BAILIFF: Jury is in the jury box seated,
24 Your Honor.
25 THE COURT: Thank you. Let's continue.

1970

1 MR. WALLACE: If we could have the slide,
2 please, for February 12th. If -- enlarge the

3 blowout entry, please. Can we magnify it a little
4 bit or no?
5 BY MR. WALLACE:
6 Q. I want to just talk about one entry. This is
7 from your notes, Dr. Groff.
8 A. Yes.
9 Q. Take your time.
10 Okay. The entry for February 12th is the one
11 that we have displayed on the screen here. Are you
12 able to read your notes or the screen?
13 A. Yes.
14 Q. All right. One of the things I want to talk
15 about here is -- and like a number of entries, there is
16 a number of references in your sessions to a woman named
17 Jan, J-A-N; correct?
18 A. Yes.
19 Q. And this one here -- I can't make this out,
20 the first entry. It looks like "HC to Jan."?
21 A. No, it's H -- "He and Jan always paranoid."
22 Q. Okay. So "He and Jan, he told you that he and
23 this woman named Jan were always paranoid about
24 something?
25 A. And then there is an arrow.

1971

1 Q. "healthy skepticism."?
2 A. Yeah. And I put that in quotation marks, I
3 believe.
4 Q. So that would represent something that Mr.
5 Eastman said to you; correct?
6 A. No, I think it's what I said to him; that I
7 may have been correcting his use of the word "paranoid,"
8 which usually has a more ominous meaning, to mean that
9 they are not paranoid, which might be the utterings of
10 sick people, but they are really just healthfully
11 skeptical.
12 Q. And it's healthy in life -- it's a healthy
13 part of a human condition to be skeptical or questioning
14 about some things; correct?
15 A. Absolutely.
16 Q. And that appears to be what?
17 A. Well, and I say with the arrow "Is not
18 abnormal. Is a question of degree."
19 Q. And that's what it says over here, that
20 "healthy skepticism is not abnormal. It's a question of
21 degree"; correct?
22 A. Correct.
23 Q. And the only other thing I want to talk about
24 -- two other things is right here. First of all, in
25 quotes it says "John Eastman is great." Is that

1972

1 something that you said in the session or something that
2 Mr. Eastman would have said to you in the session?
3 A. I have no idea. It could even be something
4 that something else said and we were just quoting it and
5 saying -- like something from his TV show or maybe an
6 admirer might have said that. I have no idea.
7 Q. Let's assume -- let's hypothesize that Mr.
8 Eastman said it to you. What diagnosis do you typically
9 make in patients who refer to themselves in the third
10 person as being great, Dr. Groff?
11 A. Well, although I don't know who said it, I can
12 guarantee you he didn't say it.
13 Q. I'm sorry. You can guarantee us that did not

14 say it?
15 A. That he did not say that. He wouldn't say a
16 thing like that.
17 Q. How do you know that, sir?
18 A. Not only knowing him then, but I know him now;
19 and that would be not the kind of statement that a
20 person like John Eastman would ever make.
21 Q. How many times have you seen John Eastman
22 since he terminated -- the two of you mutually
23 terminated your patient-doctor relationship in 1980?
24 A. Early on we saw each other much more. I
25 believe I was even a guest on his TV show. I was a

1973

1 guest on his radio show. There was a time when I had my
2 own radio show on the same network, I think it was. And
3 then as the years went by, I guess because I had been
4 traveling much more nationally and internationally, we
5 have kind of gotten away from each other. And we have
6 other mutual friends, things that would have caused our
7 paths to cross. So I would say in more recent years we
8 haven't seen each other but sporadically. And we are
9 still friends, and I'm still a great admirer.
10 Q. When is the last time prior to here in court
11 this morning that you had seen Mr. Eastman?
12 A. Oh, maybe a few weeks ago.
13 Q. And what was that occasion, sir?
14 A. As I say, from time to time, I would pass by,
15 if I were up in the north of Florida and coming down.
16 Now that I found out where he lived, I would pass by and
17 say "Hello." And I really didn't have any idea about
18 this lawsuit. We were talking about, you know, just
19 things, because we have been friends for a long time.
20 But when I received this subpoena for my
21 records, that was the first time I became aware
22 that he was involved in this thing, you know, or
23 that I might even be involved. I thought that was
24 -- kind of came out of the blue. And since that
25 time I have seen him once or twice.

1974

1 Q. Did someone tell you that you had to testify
2 in this case at trial, Dr. Groff?
3 A. Well, I guess when I spoke to Nancy
4 Faggianelli and we kind of agreed that I would be
5 deposed, she said she would send a subpoena to my
6 office. And I said, "Fine, just send it. Anybody will
7 accept it," just after we had gotten the subpoena for
8 records. I guess that means you must testify.
9 Q. Well, did you ever receive the subpoena --
10 A. No.
11 Q. -- from Ms. Faggianelli?
12 A. No, because that was canceled because of the
13 discussions about the payment and so forth.
14 Q. Right. Well, I got off track a little bit.
15 But who told you you had to come here today and testify?
16 Who told you that?
17 A. I was not subpoenaed. I just heard it from
18 Mr. Acosta, I suppose. He asked me if I would come.
19 Q. So the reason you are here is because Mr.
20 Acosta asked you to come and talk about your treatment
21 of Mr. Eastman?
22 A. Yes. Wait, wait. No, actually, the way it
23 went was this. I received a subpoena for my records. I
24 sent a copy of my subpoena to Mr. Acosta's office. I

25 kind of guessed he already knew; but just in case he

1975

1 hadn't been noticed, it was the proper thing to do.
2 After he received that is when I then received an e-mail
3 or something with that notice. And I believe they then
4 said -- I can't be exactly sure how it happened, but
5 they said that I would then be all called as a witness
6 by him because of the records that were introduced. But
7 I don't recall anybody saying I had to go or that I
8 would be subpoenaed.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. I believe that was the sequence of events.

11 Q. And you are not here today simply because you
12 didn't have better things to do, are you, Dr. Groff?

13 A. "simply because I didn't have better things to
14 do." I'm not under subpoena. I'm here because I was
15 asked to come here to talk about my records.

16 Q. By Mr. Acosta; correct?

17 A. By Mr. Acosta, yes.

18 Q. Okay. The other question that I don't think I
19 got and answer to is when was the last time prior to
20 this morning here in court that you actually spoke to
21 Mr. Eastman?

22 A. I think a week ago.

23 Q. Okay. And was that a social setting?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. All right. So it would be accurate to say

1976

1 that in addition to for some six months some 23 years
2 ago treating Mr. Eastman as a psychiatrist, thereafter
3 the two of you developed a friendship?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And that's a friendship that has been
6 maintained for some 23 years?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. All right. Doctor, this entry for February
9 12th, 1980, I have looked at it and looked at it and
10 looked at it; and I can't see a reference to cigarette
11 smoking. Would you look at it and see if you can find
12 one, sir.

13 A. I do not.

14 Q. Okay. February -- March 12th please now.

15 This is the entry for your session, all of it,
16 for the session that you had with Mr. Eastman on
17 March 12, 1980, correct, Dr. Groff?

18 A. March 12th.

19 Q. March 12th.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Let me just read the entry. I want to -- it
22 says, "Alienation," right? "what makes me a victim,"
23 question mark. Getting in touch -- C with a line over
24 it means "with"; right?

25 A. Yes.

1977

1 Q. "getting in touch with feelings," semicolon.
2 And what is that?

3 A. Unconscious.

4 Q. Unconscious?

5 A. "UCS" is unconscious.

6 Q. Okay. And what's the significance of your
7 notation of the word "unconscious" in your records? Let
8 me help you out. I will ask a better question because
9 what I'm guessing --

10 A. Let me just try to answer this one question
11 while I'm formulating it my mind, before you jump to
12 another one.
13 Q. Sure.
14 A. "alienations. What makes me a victim.
15 Getting in touch with feelings. Unconscious." Okay. I
16 guess what I'm saying here -- and usually, you know,
17 the way it really works in life is I would have to know
18 what occurred in the session before and then in the
19 session after. But if I just look at this one, what that
20 obviously says to me is that in the course of the
21 therapy, that we are bringing up some unconscious
22 material. Now, that unconscious material would be the
23 matters that we discussed but don't necessarily write
24 down.
25 Q. Well, why don't you take a look at the session

1978

1 immediately preceding this one --
2 A. Okay.
3 Q. -- and the session immediately following it,
4 and tell me if there is any mention of cigarette smoking
5 in either one of those sessions.
6 A. I can pretty much assure you, because I have
7 looked over this, that the only place where I really
8 mention cigarettes is on July 9 in writing. But I can
9 also assure you that cigarettes are discussed or thought
10 about and dealt with as part of therapy in every
11 session, even though it is not written down.
12 Furthermore, even in the initial evaluation
13 -- I tried to explain it earlier -- that it
14 wouldn't be necessary for me to write down whether
15 I discussed with the patient about obesity,
16 alcohol, or cigarettes because that's what I do all
17 the time.
18 Q. Right, Doctor. But only two people in this
19 room were in that -- those sessions that you had with
20 Mr. Eastman; right? There was you and there was John
21 Eastman; correct?
22 A. Yes.
23 Q. And there is only one record of what happened
24 in that room; correct?
25 A. There is this written record you mean?

1979

1 Q. Yes. DX 11,000.
2 A. As far as I know, that's correct.
3 Q. And as you have indicated, there is only one
4 reference to cigarette smoking in those two pages, those
5 six months' worth of medical records; correct?
6 A. That's correct.
7 Q. And that reference appears the very last time
8 you had a session with Mr. Eastman on July 9, 1980;
9 correct?
10 A. That's correct.
11 Q. And what that --
12 MR. WALLACE: Can we see the July 19 -- July
13 24, please.
14 BY MR. WALLACE:
15 Q. This is the last session, the next session, he
16 didn't show, and treatment was mutually terminated;
17 correct, Dr. Groff?
18 A. Correct.
19 Q. And like you, I mean, I went through these two
20 pages looking and looking for a reference to cigarette

21 smoking, and I think this is what you are referring to.
22 This is -- the only one I found is a down arrow, which
23 means decrease or down to; right?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And then it says "To less than, that's what

1980

1 that symbol means; correct?

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. -- "15 cigarettes per day." All right?

4 That's the only reference to cigarette smoking in your
5 records of your treatment with Mr. Eastman; correct?

6 A. Yes. In written reference.

7 Q. And what that suggests is that Mr. Eastman at
8 some point appears to have set a goal to reduce his
9 consumption of cigarettes, correct, one could draw that
10 inference?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And one could equally draw the inference --
13 the evidence is consistent with one concluding that he
14 achieved goal by July 9, 1980, in reducing his
15 consumption of cigarettes to less than 15 per day;
16 correct?

17 A. No, false.

18 Q. Tell me what is false about that.

19 A. We failed in our therapy to deal with his
20 reducing his cigarettes. That note just prior to my
21 realizing that our therapy was going to end was a morbid
22 statement as to the failure of our therapy; and even if
23 I wrote it or didn't write it, I can tell you that's
24 what happened. At that point I was noting that that's
25 all we got to, was to decrease to less than 15

1981

1 cigarettes per day. That would not be a worthy goal of
2 a therapist trying to help a patient to get off of a
3 very toxic substance. A goal that would have been more
4 satisfactory would have been if he had terminated
5 completely or certainly got it down to below five. And
6 that's what that sentence is really -- or that
7 statement, "Decrease to less than 15 cigarettes per
8 day," is saying. It's saying that there was a failure.

9 Q. Okay. So in your opinion people shouldn't
10 smoke cigarettes at all, I guess; right?

11 A. Yes, that's correct.

12 Q. All right. Do you favor a ban on cigarettes?
13 Should they be banned?

14 A. Yes, I would think that cigarettes have no
15 redeeming value, and truly it's not something that I
16 believe personally has a value on this planet.

17 Q. Sure. But as a -- where did you say you went
18 to medical school, by the way?

19 A. At the University of Amsterdam in Holland.

20 Q. Okay. Now, did they teach you at the
21 University of Amsterdam in Holland that what one does as
22 a psychiatrist is substitute one's own judgment for
23 what's right and wrong and what's good and bad for those
24 of patients like John Eastman? Is that what they taught
25 you at medical school in Holland?

1982

1 A. Well, I assume that that's a rhetorical
2 question. But, obviously, that's not what any sound
3 educators would teach to anybody.

4 But I could add for your clarification, if you
5 would like to know how it works with toxic

6 substances.
7 Q. Sir, thank you. You have answered the
8 question.
9 A. You are welcome, sir.
10 MR. WALLACE: Could we go back to the slide
11 319, please.
12 We are almost done, Doctor.
13 BY MR. WALLACE:
14 Q. It says here, "Had a good day with radio
15 guests. Jan, a real love affair. Is losing weight.
16 Don't exercise. Do activities. Relationship with Jan
17 is motive." And it says here, I guess, "Sex is an
18 endless process" in quotes and something about respect.
19 But let's talk about losing weight. Do you
20 see that entry?
21 A. Yes.
22 Q. It's in quotes. So is that something that you
23 told Mr. Eastman he should do, or does it suggest that
24 it was something he was telling you he had done?
25 A. Again, I believe that if a person felt that

1983

1 they were overweight and they were in therapy, certainly
2 it should become incorporated in the therapy to help a
3 person look at what it meant. And it seems like,
4 although I don't think that weight was the highest level
5 of our agenda in our therapy, that he was reporting as
6 progress in what he was working on, that he was able to
7 get another one of those things in his life under
8 control.
9 Q. Right. What this suggests is that Mr.
10 Eastman had set a goal for himself of losing weight, and
11 his motivation for doing so was his relationship with
12 this woman named Jan, correct, according to your notes?
13 A. Why would you say that?
14 Q. Well, it says, "Relationship with Jan is
15 motive."
16 A. No, actually what that says is "Relationship
17 with Jan is mature."
18 Q. Okay. Well, what we have here is that your
19 notes indicate that Mr. Eastman has set a goal for
20 losing weight, and he chose not to do it by exercising,
21 but rather to do it by engaging in some form of
22 activity; correct?
23 A. No, actually that's my idea. At the time I
24 felt that patients shouldn't stress themselves. I think
25 he was just at 175 and his goal was for 165.

1984

1 Q. Right.
2 A. That's what that note triggers my mind about.
3 And I would tell him, "Look, don't bother to exercise.
4 Just continue to do normal life activities." So that's
5 the way I teach patients to do it. Because they found
6 for those patients who were trying to lose just a little
7 bit of weight, if they got into over-exercise, it would
8 increase the appetite; and that wasn't really the goal.
9 So I think that's what that's all about, by explanation.
10 Q. Okay. All right. Well --
11 A. And it was a good session in the sense that
12 this relationship with Jan seemed to be a very mature
13 relationship.
14 Q. All right. Let's look at the notes of your
15 session on March 26.
16 "a frustrated doctor." Now, would that be

17 you, Dr. Groff, that you were a frustrated doctor
18 at that time?
19 A. No. That was John. Actually, he was supposed
20 to be a doctor.
21 Q. He was supposed to be a veterinarian, wasn't
22 he?
23 A. Well, I think his father wanted him to be a
24 veterinarian, as I understand it, but I think he wanted
25 to be a doctor.

1985

1 Q. Whatever his goals or objectives was in that
2 regard as a young man, he didn't achieve them, did he?
3 A. I beg your pardon?
4 Q. He didn't achieve them, did he? He didn't
5 become a doctor, did he, Doctor?
6 A. Well, I don't think that he ever really wanted
7 to become was a doctor. I think what he really wanted
8 to become was what he became, a writer and a --
9 Q. Celebrity.
10 A. -- a celebrity, yes.
11 Q. All right. "a systemic thinker" in quotes.
12 What does that mean?
13 A. I have no idea.
14 Q. Well, then help me with this one. "I deserve
15 what I get." What does that mean?
16 A. Probably in the course of therapy we were
17 discussing some really tough stuff and things that might
18 come up from the unconscious, and who knows. But I
19 thought it was important to see that he is now beginning
20 to look inside himself and express some guilt about
21 things that may have happened. And then he says, "I
22 want to be cooperative." So basically I must be at this
23 stage of the therapy, some two months down, getting to
24 push some buttons and touch some nerves. In other
25 words, we are doing real good therapy.

1986

1 Q. Okay. Now, there is no mention of cigarette
2 smoking in that session, is there?
3 A. There is no mention of any written down of any
4 cigarette smoking anywhere in this entire document,
5 except on July 9.
6 Q. Let's go to your session on April 30th, 1980.
7 Mr. Eastman reports that he has worked hard and
8 succeeded; correct? Is that what that says?
9 A. I can't -- you are looking at April 30?
10 Q. April 30.
11 A. Oh, yes, "Has worked hard and succeeded."
12 Q. And then I cannot make out --
13 A. "two months from now will be doing two shows
14 back to back per week. Is much less " -- that's what
15 the two arrows down means -- "much less self-destructive
16 and is comfortable with abstinence.
17 So probably this session has to do with a very
18 successful session where we are getting somewhere, and
19 he is feeling now for the reasons he came to me that he
20 can handle these two shows back to back. Things are
21 looking good. He is working very hard. He has
22 succeeded. He is being less self-destructive. And what
23 that note about "comfortable with total abstinence"
24 means is that probably in our talking about -- because
25 the major issue was smoking cigarettes, that he is now

1987

1 comfortable with the idea that maybe he can set a goal

2 for actually giving up smoking.

3 Q. Well, that's your recollection at this point,
4 and you may well be right. But based upon your record,
5 we have nothing that places the reference that John
6 Eastman was comfortable with total abstinence, which
7 means doing without something; right?

8 A. Yes, total abstinence means doing without
9 something totally.

10 Q. Doing without.

11 A. Right.

12 Q. And we have nothing within the four corners of
13 your records what you wrote at the time you were
14 treating this gentleman that would enable the ladies and
15 gentlemen of the jury to conclude what he was totally
16 comfortable being abstinent about; right?

17 A. No. I think the ladies and gentlemen of this
18 jury recognize that I have been talking to him about
19 smoking cigarettes from day one and that this fits right
20 in line with everything that I have been explaining from
21 day one.

22 Q. And it turns out -- now, is that something
23 that Mr. Eastman would have said to you or something
24 that you would have told him, that he could find comfort
25 in total abstinence? What is your recollection 23 years

1988

1 later?

2 A. Well, you are misinterpreting or misreading
3 it. It doesn't say -- it says, "comfortable with total
4 abstinence." So that means to me, using the verb in that
5 way, that in our discussion at this stage of therapy
6 where I'm still thinking we are on the zenith and rising
7 to help him with his problem with smoking cigarettes,
8 that he could start to entertain now the concept on a
9 verbal conscious level that maybe one day he would quit.

10 Q. Turns out he was right; right?

11 A. Well, during this course of therapy,
12 unfortunately, it turned out he was wrong.

13 Q. Well, but I thought what you said was that one
14 day he might quit; right?

15 A. Well, if you are asking me a question, I would
16 like to have a chance answer in the following way. Are
17 you asking me a question?

18 Q. Sir, you can answer my question in any way you
19 want, provided it is truthful?

20 A. Wow. Yes, it's going to be truthful, sir.
21 And what I would like for you to understand is that I
22 felt that Mr. Eastman is addicted today. I feel that
23 even though he was faced with this terrible thing of
24 chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and aneurysm of
25 his aorta, which I'm sure was all caused by smoking

1989

1 cigarettes, even today -- and that was one of the things
2 I disagreed with when I had the opportunity to look at
3 the statement of Dr. Kaplan. I think even today he is
4 just a guy who could wait for the shoe to fall, and
5 that's one of the terrible parts of this addiction.

6 So even in my therapy when he failed -- if you
7 are suggesting that you think today he succeeded, I
8 would ask you to have another look at my friend and
9 think twice about whether he succeeded or not.

10 MR. WALLACE: Your Honor, I move to strike
11 that as nonresponsive of the question that was
12 asked.

13 THE COURT: You told him he could ask it in
14 any way he wanted --
15 MR. WALLACE: That's true. You are right.
16 THE COURT: -- to as long as it was honest.
17 So you kind of opened the door for that one.
18 MR. WALLACE: You are right. Shame on me.
19 Okay.
20 MR. ACOSTA: Move to strike, Judge --
21 MR. WALLACE: Do you know --
22 MR. ACOSTA: -- his comments to himself.
23 THE COURT: Sustained.
24 MR. WALLACE: It was unconscious.
25 MR. ACOSTA: Same objection.

1990

1 BY MR. WALLACE:
2 Q. Do you know, Dr. Groff, whether Mr. Eastman to
3 this day smokes cigarettes?
4 A. Well, if you mean about the deal with two
5 people in the room and only know -- I can't really know.
6 But I'm told that since 1995 when he was confronted with
7 his very existence, at that moment that was strong
8 enough to have him at least temporarily and partially to
9 put down his last cigarette. If he were smoking
10 today -- and there are people who have done that,
11 despite being confronted with this situation -- I would
12 hope and pray that you are wrong and that he is not
13 smoking today.
14 Q. All right. Let's go to the last slide, July
15 9th, your July 9th session. And this is the last
16 session that you had with Mr. Eastman; right?
17 A. Yes.
18 Q. And this is where he either is or he isn't
19 down to 15 cigarettes a day, but that's what your
20 records reflect; correct?
21 A. That -- my understanding of what that
22 reflects -- and that's my usual custom -- is that he is
23 only down to less than 15 cigarettes a day. Our goal
24 would have been far less --
25 Q. Right.

1991

1 A. -- if not total abstinence.
2 Q. Well, we don't -- we can't tell what your
3 goals are because your records don't contain any
4 treatment goals -- any statement of your treatment
5 goals, do they, Dr. Groff?
6 A. I'm here to truthfully tell you that my
7 records are only cryptic. My records are not meant to
8 have statements like that. But they are here to jog my
9 memory, and I'm telling you truthfully what's in my
10 memory.
11 Q. I don't doubt your truthfulness, sir, but that
12 wasn't my question. Your records do not contain any
13 explicit or specific reference to what your treatment
14 plan was for Mr. Eastman; correct?
15 A. That's correct.
16 Q. Nor do your records contain any diagnosis of
17 any mental disorder or condition that Mr. -- Mr. Eastman
18 was suffering from; correct?
19 A. Not written down as such, but I think any
20 professional reading this could come to conclusions
21 about diagnostic categories.
22 Q. And there is no reference anywhere in your
23 records to the word "addicted," is there, Dr. Groff?

24 A. I don't think so.
25 Q. You don't think there is; correct?

1992

1 A. I do not think there is.
2 Q. All right. Let's look at this entry right
3 here. It says that "Jan is a stabilizing factor in his
4 life"; is that what that says?
5 A. "Jan, a stabilizing factor."
6 Q. Okay. And then what it says -- ETOH is
7 alcohol; correct?
8 A. Correct.
9 Q. Distilled spirits, gin, vodka, scotch,
10 whatever?
11 A. Alcohol.
12 Q. Okay.
13 A. Ethanol, actually. "ETOH" is a chemical
14 symbol for ethanol.
15 Q. And doctors use that as a shorthand reference
16 to alcohol?
17 A. That's correct.
18 Q. And what Mr. Eastman told you, he identified
19 that it had been necessary for him to consume alcohol in
20 order to have sex; correct?
21 A. No, that's not what that means.
22 Q. Why don't you tell us what that means then,
23 please, sir.
24 A. That in our discussions probably earlier, as
25 well as maybe in that session, that in the same way that

1993

1 some people will associate holding a cigarette in their
2 hand and drinking, some people will associate drinking
3 with having sex.
4 Q. All right.
5 A. If I follow that by saying "with Jan it's not
6 necessary," then I think, although I can't be 100
7 percent sure, noting that Jan is a stabilizing factor,
8 that he's simply identifying that with a person like
9 Jan, the relationship is so good that it would never
10 require or be identified in any way with alcohol and the
11 sexuality that existed between them.
12 Q. Right. What it would seem to suggest to me is
13 that there was a point in Mr. Eastman's life where,
14 rightly or wrongly, he perceived or thought that it
15 would be necessary for him to consume alcohol in order
16 to have sex; correct?
17 A. No. I think if you stretched it to mean that,
18 that's certainly not my recollection it would mean that.
19 Q. What does it mean, sir?
20 A. Just, again, what I told you a moment ago?
21 Q. Yes. What does it mean?
22 A. I feel that looking at the entire case and
23 understanding Mr. Eastman, his relationships with women,
24 and this one with Jan, that as this one is -- as I know,
25 was going to be the end of our therapy and I'm kind of

1994

1 summarizing certain ideas about what he found out of
2 this therapy, "Jan is a stabilizing factor, and that
3 when we identify alcohol with sex," semicolon, "with
4 Jan, it would not be necessary to in any way associate
5 sexuality and alcohol, as others might do."
6 Q. And what that means then is that Mr. Eastman
7 had developed the ability to disassociate drinking from
8 sex and to realize that he could have sex with at least

9 one woman without there being any linkage to alcohol;
10 correct?
11 A. No, I wouldn't stretch to that kind of theory.
12 I don't see your point in that.
13 MR. WALLACE: No further questions, Your
14 Honor.
15 THE COURT: Any redirect?
16 MR. ACOSTA: Can I have just one second, Your
17 Honor?
18 (Pause.)
19 MR. ACOSTA: I think I just have one or two
20 questions for you, Doctor.
21 BY MR. ACOSTA:
22 Q. When you saw Mr. Eastman, how long were the
23 sessions?
24 A. Forty-five minutes.
25 Q. And did the two of you talk for 45 minutes

1995

1 back and forth?
2 A. Hopefully, but there may have been silences at
3 times.
4 Q. And so those records -- just little
5 one-sentence, couple-sentence records -- were for what
6 purpose?
7 A. It's just a habit I got into just to remember
8 a session was on a certain day and, for example, if he
9 had insurance to cover or -- in other cases. So it just
10 makes a note that a session occurred on that day, but it
11 isn't meant to really to summarize or say too much other
12 than to jog my memory for the next time.
13 Q. Did John Eastman have these defense mechanisms
14 at and unconscious level that related to his smoking?
15 MR. WALLACE: Objection, Your Honor.
16 Mr. Acosta is putting words in the witness's mouth.
17 MR. ACOSTA: I just asked him if -- these are
18 the topics.
19 THE COURT: I will permit it.
20 A. Yes, he did. And through the course of the
21 therapy and in discussions, this was the meat. This was
22 working on what was unconscious and being denied or
23 rationalized in an attempt to bring it to the surface,
24 an awareness.
25 Q. And what was the ultimate impact of these

1996

1 self-defense mechanisms on his smoking?
2 A. I think -- in my own defense I think he
3 learned a lot. I think it was a positive experience,
4 perhaps, if other things didn't contaminate it, like the
5 unfortunate situation with the real reasons he had
6 thought he came, the business situation and his career.
7 If they had been more stable, possibly we would have had
8 a greater success with him giving up the smoking. But
9 although he failed in my course of treatment, I would
10 have hoped that it would have been a steppingstone for
11 him to try further. Looks like it didn't.
12 Q. Was there anything -- when you say "giving it
13 up," did he have a choice in doing that, considering
14 what you know about him?
15 A. Well, here is the thing. Psychiatry is a
16 medical science. It's really unworthy of the medical
17 science to discuss the word "choice." Choice is
18 something for laymen to discuss when they can think
19 about and make decisions: Shall I go left? Shall I go

20 right? Shall I eat a piece of pie.
21 But when we are talking in psychiatry about
22 addiction, then what we mean is that these people
23 from a scientific perspective have no choice. The
24 word "choice" does not enter into the equation.
25 MR. ACOSTA: Thank you, Doctor.

1997

1 That's all I have.
2 THE COURT: All right. I think the witness
3 may stand down.
4 MR. WALLACE: One moment, Your Honor?
5 THE COURT: Wait just a moment. We are
6 waiting to see if they have any follow-up.
7 MR. WALLACE: No questions, Your Honor.
8 THE COURT: Okay. You are free to go, sir.
9 Folks, I think this would be a good time for
10 us to take our lunch recess.
11 If you will be back in the jury room at about
12 1 o'clock, we will be ready to proceed.
13 Thank you.
14 THE BAILIFF: All rise. This court will be in
15 recess until 1 o'clock.
16 (The following took place out of the presence
17 of the jury.)
18 MR. WALLACE: Your Honor, are we excused for
19 lunch?
20 THE COURT: You are.
21 MR. WALLACE: Thank you.
22 (At 11:41 a.m. A lunch recess was taken, after
23 which the following proceedings were had:)
24
25

1998

1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER
2 STATE OF FLORIDA)
3 COUNTY OF PINELLAS)
4 I, BETH L. BILLINGS, RPR, Deputy Official Court
5 Reporter, in and for the Six Judicial Circuit, State of
6 Florida:
7 DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the
8 foregoing proceedings were had at the time and place set
9 forth in the caption thereof; that I was authorized to
10 and did stenographically report the said proceedings and
11 that the foregoing pages, numbered 1877 through 1998,
12 inclusive, is a true and correct transcription of said
13 stenographic report.
14 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have
15 hereunto affixed my official signature and seal of office
16 this 20 day of March, 2003, at Clearwater, Pinellas
17 County, Florida.
18
19
20

BETH L. BILLINGS, RPR

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25